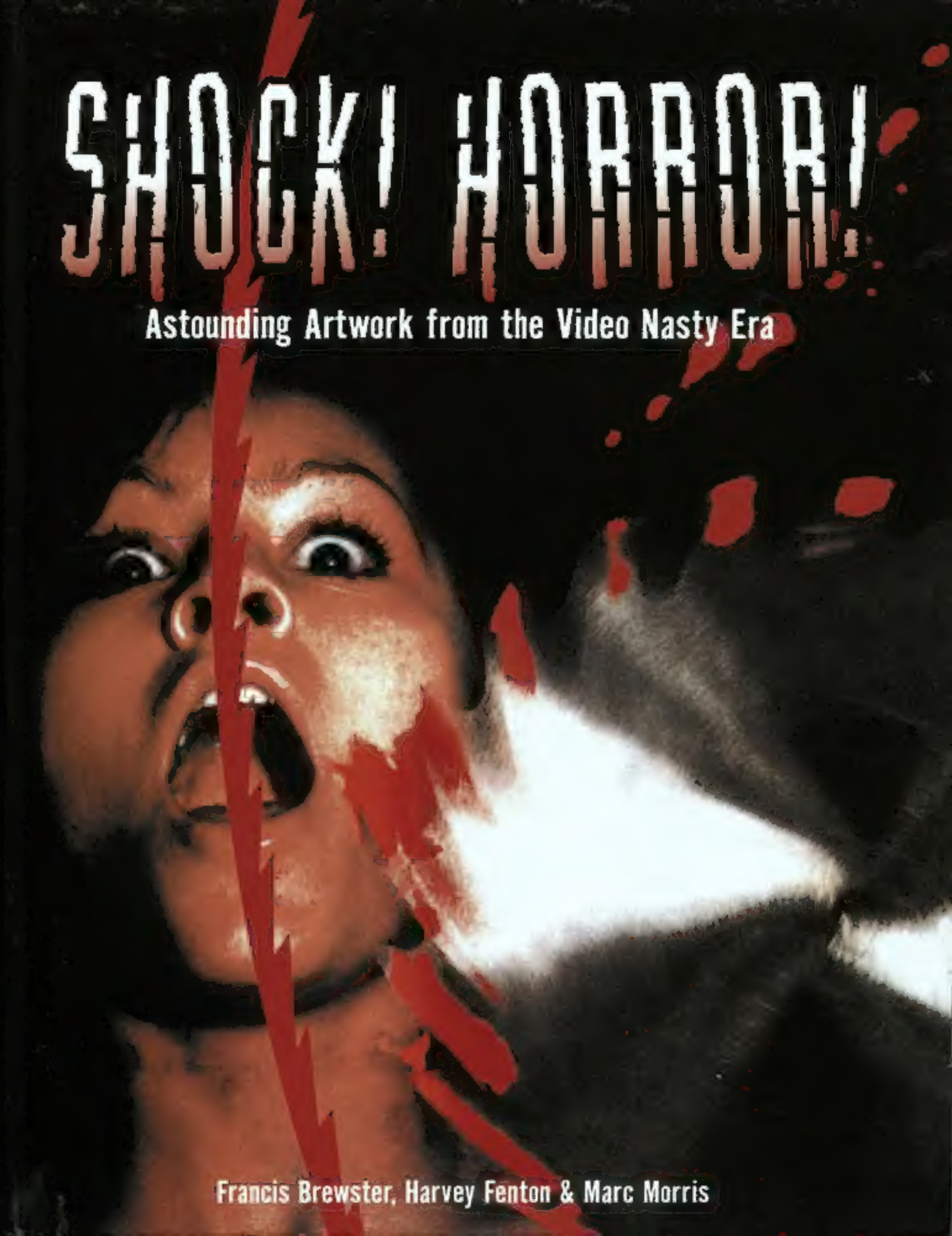
SHOCK! HORROR!

Astounding Artwork from the Video Nasty Era



Francis Brewster, Harvey Fenton & Marc Morris

SHOCK! HORROR!
ASTOUNDING ARTWORK FROM THE VIDEO NASTY ERA

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Any omissions will be corrected in future editions.

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Special thanks from Marc Morris to Eva and Jake.

Front cover illustration
Adapted from cover artwork used for the Inter-Light release of **Bloody Moon**.

Back cover illustration
Astra's trade advertisement for **Blood Feast** and **Snuff**, hastily changed at the last moment into a withdrawal notice for the latter title after the media took the 'snuff' scam all too seriously.

Frontispiece illustration
Adapted from cover artwork used for the aborted Astra release of **Snuff**.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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SHOCK! HORROR!

Astounding Artwork from the Video Nasty Era

Francis Brewster, Harvey Fenton & Marc Morris

THE OUTLAW YEARS

This book is a celebration of a bygone era, a vibrant, naive time when home video was still an exciting new concept, and the companies supplying consumers with films to rent tried every trick in the book to make their product stand out on the video store shelves.

The growth of home video in the UK has often been described as an 'explosion' or a 'revolution' - in fact it is reckoned that by the end of 1979, there were already 4,500 titles available to rent in the country - but very few of these movies were the mainstream blockbusters that the average film fan was accustomed to seeing at the cinema. The video industry was pioneered by young start-up companies run by entrepreneurs in the true Thatcherite spirit, who immediately understood the power of this emerging technology. These trailblazers took full advantage of a marketplace that was not yet dominated by corporate concerns: the production and distribution of video software was initially viewed with great suspicion by the major studios, who rather than spotting an exciting new way to increase the profitability of their investment in films, instead saw the emergent medium as a threat to their traditional revenue stream, which was the cinema, and to a lesser extent the sale of TV transmission rights.

These simple economic facts had a very interesting side-effect, which was that the majority of the titles being released on video during the early 1980s were, by necessity, low-budget 'off-mainstream' movies - these being the only titles that most of the companies in operation at the time could afford to acquire. A very high proportion of these films were horror and exploitation flicks, the sort of films that might previously have been confined to short runs in regional fleapit cinemas - if they had even managed to secure theatrical screenings in the UK at all. Now they were available in high street video stores the length and breadth of Britain, unrestrained by any form of regulation. There was no age restriction on hiring tapes, no consumer advice, and no formal system of censorship. All of a sudden Britain was hit by a flood of explicit horror movies, easily accessible to anyone with a video recorder at home and a few quid in their pocket to spend on a night's rental fee.

The intense competition within the industry was exacerbated by the number of black market bootleg videos being offered for sale, a situation that was inevitable in the early years because video cassettes had no established ownership rights protection in the UK until The Copyright Act 1956 (Amendment) was introduced in July 1982 to plug the gap in the law. With new video companies starting up in Britain on a weekly basis, the fight for shelf space was fierce. Videograms (as they were somewhat quaintly referred to at the time) were packaged in eye-catching, outrageous and sometimes blatantly offensive covers to ensure that they would stand out in this saturated marketplace. Video was new, unregulated, and out of control. These were the outlaw years.

As their malevolent influence spread across a previously innocent land, the Government of the day soon found itself being challenged by often hysterical calls for remedial action from moral campaigners and sundry special-interest pressure groups. As a result many of these horror videos were eventually banned or otherwise suppressed by the powers that be, terrified of the consequences of allowing the impressionable youth of Great Britain to be exposed to the unimaginable horrors that lurked behind these lurid covers...

When the inevitable Government legislation arrived, it was in the form of an Act of Parliament - the Video Recordings Act, 1984 (commonly known as the VRA), which demanded the compulsory pre-release censorship of all videos destined for the UK market. A less formal, but none the less devastating, development was the introduction of the Video Packaging Review Committee (VPRC) in 1987. Formed as a result of another knee-jerk reaction - this time to the Michael Ryan Hungerford gun massacre - their job was to ensure that gaudy, gory video covers of the sort celebrated in this book would never be seen in British stores again.

Despite multiple re-releases over the last twenty years of many of the films featured in this book, video packaging has never come near to attaining the perverse heights of outrage effortlessly reached by British video companies during what has come to be known as the 'video nasty' era. The glory days of horror video cover design spanned barely five years, and the legal crackdown of 1984 swiftly removed the vast bulk of these crazy designs from rental shop shelves forever. But horror fans across the nation were determined to archive these amazing artifacts, and set about building up impressive collections from whatever back-street sources they stumbled upon. In the process a trading network was established, ensuring that at least a few pristine examples of every 'videogram' ever released in Britain have survived to this day. It has proved to be an occasionally difficult task to track down some of the video covers included in this book, but eventually we sourced every single title on our wish-list, for which we would again like to express our thanks to the kind people mentioned in our acknowledgements section.

An undoubted truth is that what appeals to many collectors of early 1980s horror videos is not owning the films themselves - they are much better appreciated on DVD - but rather it is the amazing video cover artwork itself that is coveted. With original editions of the most jaw-dropping designs illustrated in this book habitually commanding prices of several hundred pounds each on the increasingly competitive collectors market, the most avid fan can never hope to own original copies of most of the artwork displayed in this book - even if they were able to locate these incredibly rare items in the first place!

This book is therefore the best chance for horror fans all over the world to own the very best genre artwork in one compact package.

Presented in this book are what the authors consider to be the most striking, outrageous, rare, valuable and highly sought-after video cover designs from the halcyon days of horror! Exploitation artwork is a universal language, and these audacious designs cross national boundaries - and the ages - with arrogant ease. Whether one actually appreciates this work on any level is another matter entirely. Whilst many people are possessed of an aesthetic sensibility that finds these designs immediately attractive - the only reason, after all, that such artwork succeeded so well in its avowed aim of promoting the rental of these tapes - others were not so impressed. The Advertising Standards Authority's May 1982 report expressed concern about recent advertisements in video consumer magazines that they judged to "reveal a disquieting trend to sadistic and violent appeals". Specifically cited were Go Video's full-page ads for **SS Experiment Camp** (seen in *Television and Video Retailer*) and **Cannibal Holocaust** (seen in *Music & Video Week*), along with VIPCO's **Driller Killer** campaign, which was published in *Popular Video*, *Which Video*, *Music & Video Week* and *Video Business*. It is commonly believed that the furore regarding the so-called 'video nasties' was, initially at least, actually a reaction to the packaging of the videos, rather than concern about the content of the films themselves - the eye-popping artwork that had been so instrumental in promoting the success of these videos would ultimately prove to be the initiator of their downfall.

There have been several books published about the 'video nasties' over the past two decades, but these have all tended to concentrate on just those releases that were specifically targeted by the authorities for prosecution under the terms of the Obscene Publications Act (OPA). However, the scope of this book is much more far-reaching, in that when choosing which designs would be represented in these pages, our primary criteria was the strength of the artwork itself, regardless of the video's status in law. The only exception we made to this rule was that, for reasons of historical importance, we felt that we could not exclude any of the 39 infamous titles that formed the final list of prosecutable titles, as prepared by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

These 39 videos - which we shall refer to as the 'DPP 39' - are the only true video nasties. Many other titles were seized, examined, and charged in courts of law during the chaos of 1983 and 1984. Some were even subjected to destruction orders sight unseen, but the lists regularly issued by the DPP were constantly changing in accordance with which titles were under consideration at any one time, and this has led to a great deal of confusion over the years as to what actually qualifies as being a genuine 'video nasty'. It is for this reason that we have decided to allocate a separate chapter of this book to discussing the details of the 'video nasty' phenomenon in the UK. Rather than relying on the research efforts of other writers, we decided that the only way to tackle this task properly was to go right back to the original source material, and having trawled through dusty archives and examined hundreds of copies of old video trade magazines we have pieced together the history of the nasties month-by-month and case-by-case. In doing so we have debunked some myths and turned up fascinating morsels of information that bring this important era in the history of the video cassette to colourful life.

Many of the stories you will read in the video nasties chapter are truly horrifying - people went to prison and faced crippling debts due to the imposition of massive fines and the destruction of stock - but much of what happened was farcical, and even amusingly mischievous. We hope you will enjoy reading these bizarre anecdotes as much as we enjoyed finding and compiling them.

What makes this book unique amongst studies of the era is the 'video nasty timeline', which has been compiled from all of the officially published DPP lists, from the first batch of 17 proscribed titles, issued on the 4th of July 1983, to the final list of 39, as published during December of 1985.

Though the video nasties necessarily form the core of this book, there are well over 100 more horror videos that take their place alongside their more infamous kin simply due to the strength of their cover designers' imagination and the skills of the many great unsung artists who found gainful employment in this vibrant industry.

It is a universal truth that one should never judge a book by its cover, and the same was true for videos. Needless to say many of the covers illustrated in these pages were mere window-dressing for shoddy product, or more sneakily, some covers were totally misrepresentative of the films contained within the cassettes themselves. A couple of particularly notable examples of this form of deception are **Steel Claw** - what is made to look like a nasty slasher movie is actually a Second World War adventure, and **E.T.n. The Extra-Terrestrial Nastie**, which is actually a creaky old 1960s shocker entitled **Nightfright!** Regardless of the motivation behind these covers, this is primarily an art book, so the focus is at all times on the cover art itself, but we have also tried to find as much background information as possible about the video releases illustrated in this book, and have prepared a comprehensive review section to back up these stunning visuals.

Shock! Horror! is both an art book and a reference work. What you will not find in the text of this book are plot synopses or critical reviews of the films themselves - there are countless horror film review books available that do this job admirably, and as we have already said, if you really want to watch the films themselves, then nine times out of ten you would be better off trying to seek them out on DVD. To help you in your searches, we have provided appropriate notes about current DVD availability where relevant.

The production of this book was greatly facilitated by reference to the pre-VRA database that Francis Brewster first started in 1987. With the assistance of fellow collectors and researchers Martin Brooks, Nigel Brooks, and Marc Morris, it now contains information on more than 12,000 videos released in the UK by 1985, and their current DVD availability. Thanks to the programming skills of Mark Wright, it is available online at **www.pre-cert.co.uk**.

Abducted (Astra, November 1982)

ABSURD
with GEORGE EASTMAN
ANNIE BELLE – CHARLES BORRONEL
and IAN DANBY
story and screenplay by JOHN CART
directed by PETER NEWTON
R WARNING X RATED
This film must not be sold or rented to minors
Running time:
96 minutes approx. Colour

Absurd (Medusa, November 1982)

ANDY WARHOL'S
FRANKENSTEIN
"The goriest and sexiest 'Frankenstein' ever filmed."
A film by PAUL MORRISSEY Starring Joe Dallesandro — Monique Van Vooren — Udo Kier
Introducing Arno Juerging — Dalila Di Lazzaro
Srdjan Zelenovic
RUNNING TIME 95 MINS. APPROX.
VIPCO

Andy Warhol's Frankenstein (VIPCO, November 1982)

Anthropophagous the Beast (Video Film Promotions, February 1983)

HARRY NOVAK presents
AT LAST...
TOTAL
TERROR!
AXE
RAY GREEN
FREDERICK R. FRIEDEL
LESLIE LEE as LISA
DOUGLAS POWERS
FRANK JOHNS • CAROL MILLER • HART SMITH • GEORGE J. MONAGHAN • SCOTT SMITH
Music by GEORGE NEWMAN SHAW and JOHN WILLHELM
Produced by J. G. PATTERSON, JR. • Written and Directed by FREDERICK R. FRIEDEL
A BOXOFFICE INTERNATIONAL PICTURES release
R RESTRICTED

© VIDEO RELEASING ORGANIZATION

Axe (Video Releasing Organization, 1982)

See it with someone you trust

BEAST

DELTA VIDEO

Beast (Delta, 21 July 1983)

The Beast in Heat
HORRIFYING EXPERIENCES IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE S.S.
WARNING · This cassette contains disturbing scenes and is not suitable for viewing by children STRICTLY ADULTS ONLY

The Beast in Heat (JVI, June 1982)

the
In the darkness beneath the new
be l the most cold blooded of
murders was being plotted
produced by ROBERT AUSN T
VIVECA LINDFORS
and ALFREDO MAYO

The Bell of Hell (Duplivision, July 1983)

The Beyond (Vampix [Videomedia], March 1982)

Blood Bath (Hokushin, February 1983)

Blood Bath (Rank, 1982)

You'll Recoil and Shudder as You Witness the Slaughter and Mutilation of Nubile Young Girls — in a Weird and Horrendous Ancient Rite!

NOTHING SO APPALLING IN THE ANNALS OF HORROR!

BLOOD FEAST

CULTVIDEO DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE U.K. BY

ASTRA VIDEO

Blood Feast (Astra, May 1982)

DV 130
VHS

MOSQUITO

DERANN

Blood Lust (Derann, 1981)

A TERRIFYING PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF HELL

BLOOD ORGY OF THE SHE-DEVILS

Blood Orgy of the She-Devils (VCL December 1982)

Blood Rites (Scorpio, 16 March 1983)

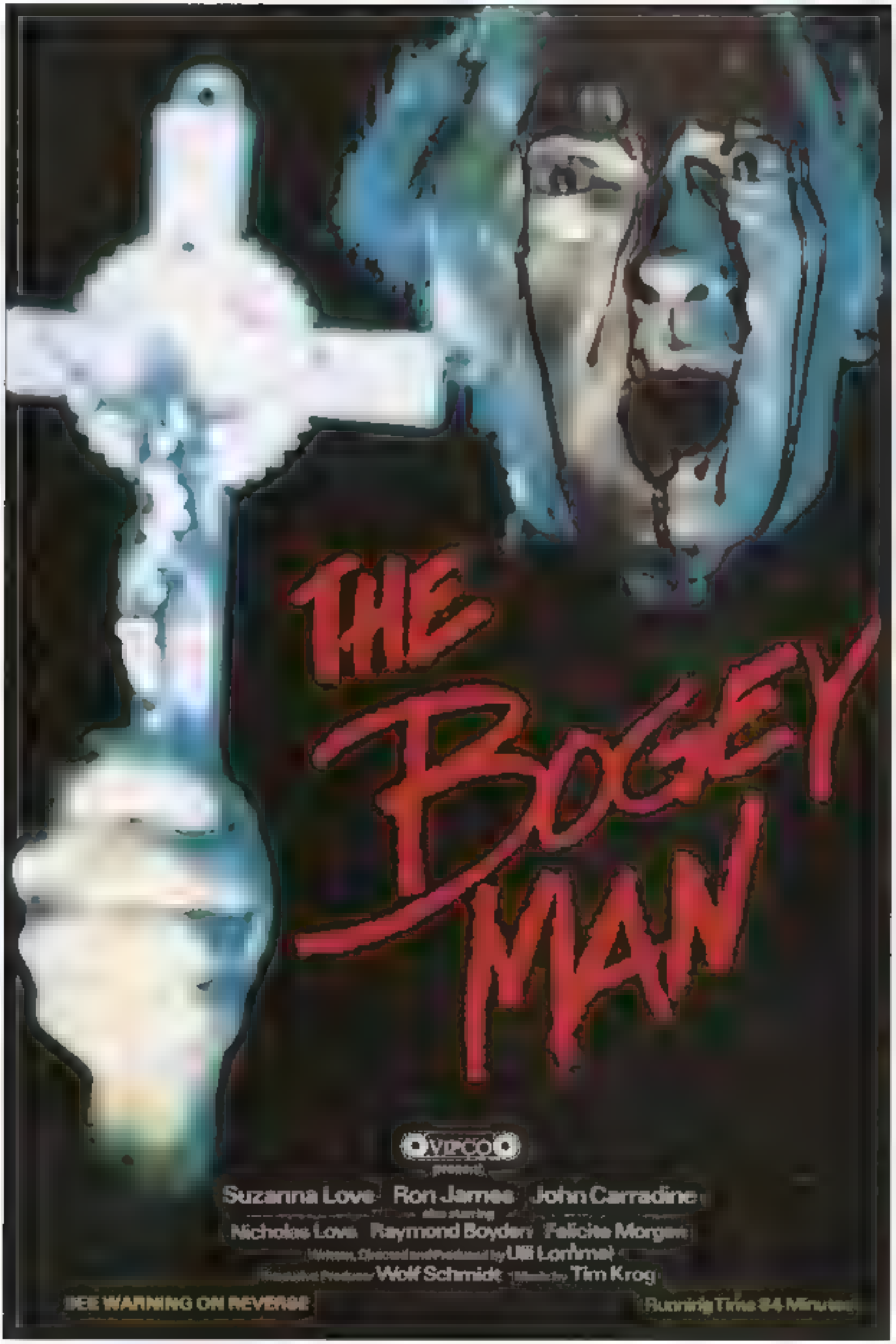
The Blood Spattered Bride (Mountain, June 1980)

Blood Vengeance (Walton, January 1983)

Bloody Moon (Inter-Light 1981)

The Blue Eyes of the Broken Doll (Canon, October 1982)

Boarding House (Horrorvision [Magnum], 28 November 1983)



The Bogey Man (VIPCO, 1 November 1981)

The Burning (Thorn EMI, October 1982)

Cannibal (Derann, August 1981)

Cannibal Apocalypse (Replay, July 1982)

CANNIBAL FEROX

STARRING

JOHN MORGHEN

LORRAINE DE SELLE

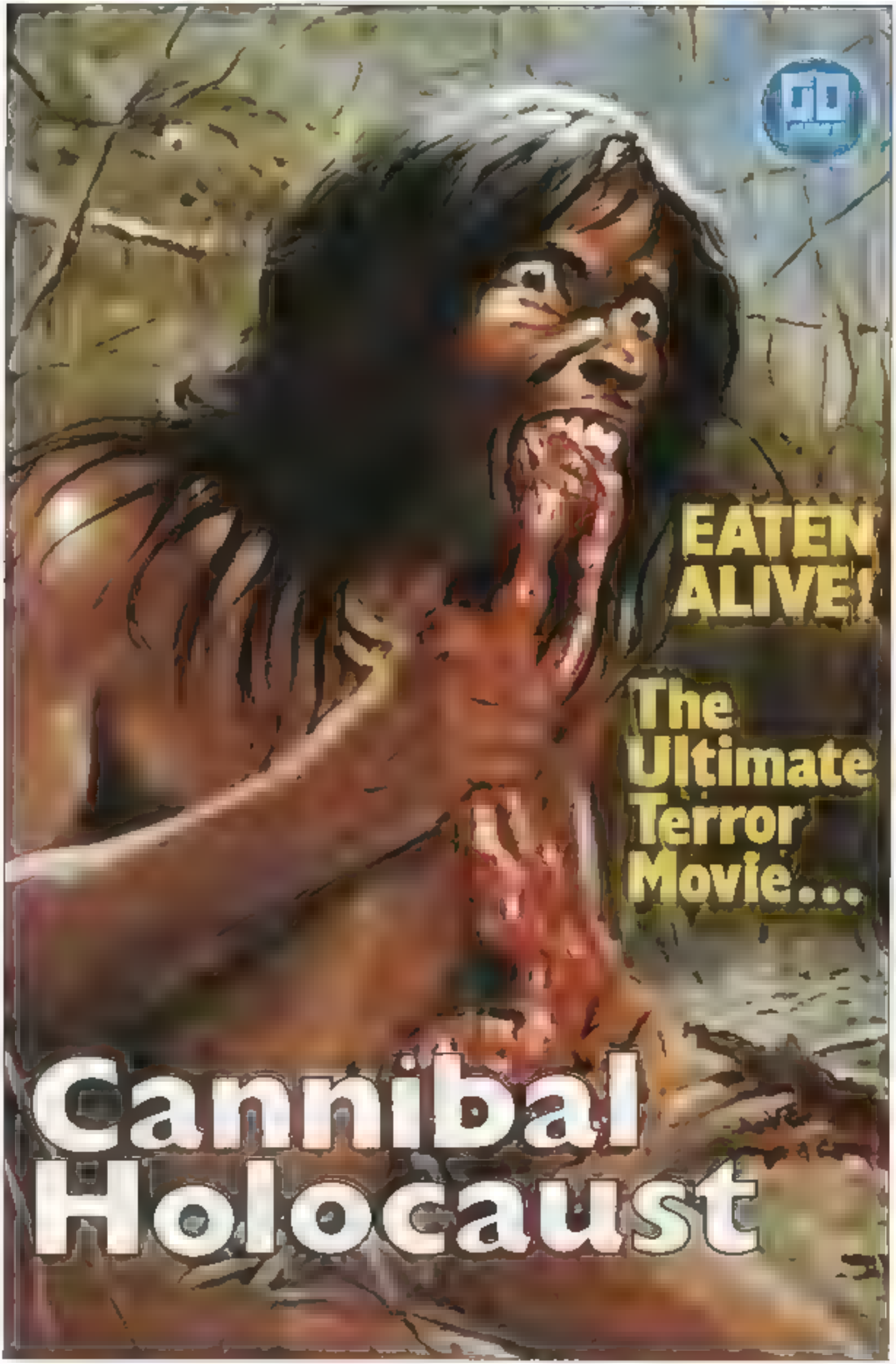
BRIAN REDFORD

DUE TO THE SPECIFIC AND HORRIFIC NATURE OF THIS FILM
THIS AREA IS NOT GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED TO AVOID
OFFENCE

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PERSONS
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

REPLAY Video

Cannibal Ferox (Replay August 1982)



Cannibal Holocaust (Go, February 1982)

The Cannibal Man (Intervision, November 1981)

MODERN FILMS
VIDEO

CANNIBAL TERROR

WITH
SILVIA SOLAR • STAN HAMILTON
BURT ALTMAN • PAMELA STANFORD
OLIVIER MATHOT AND GERARD LEMAIRE

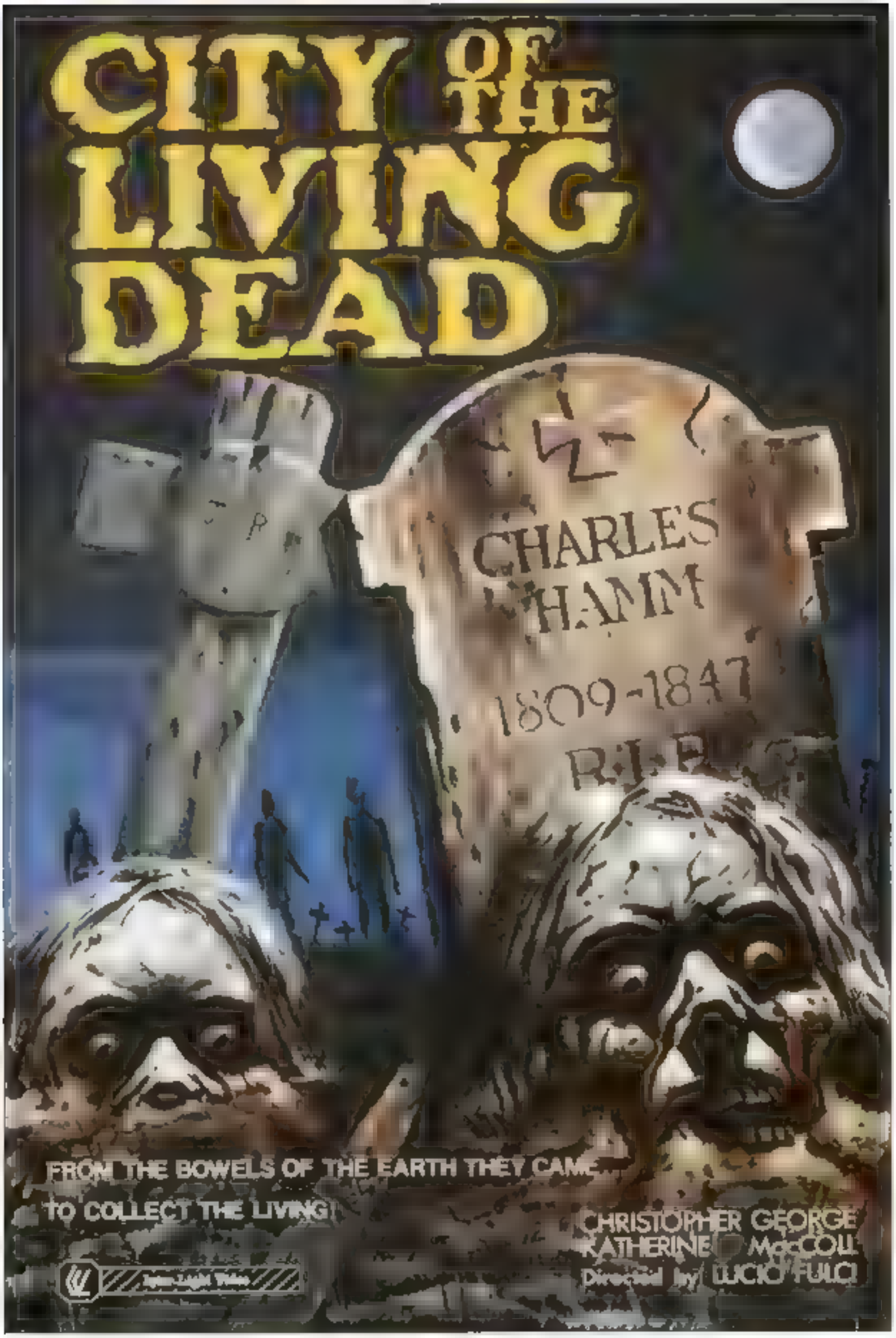
93 minutes Colour

V.H.S.

Cannibal Terror (Modern Films, October 1981)

The Cannibals (European Video Corporation, 1981)

Cataclysm (Video Unlimited, May 1982)



City of the Living Dead (Inter Light October 1982)

THE CULT HORROR MOVIE
OF ALL TIME

ALFRED SOLE'S

COMMUNION

DIRECTED BY: ALFRED SOLE
PRODUCED BY: RICHARD K. ROSENBERG
MUSIC BY: STEPHEN LAWRENCE

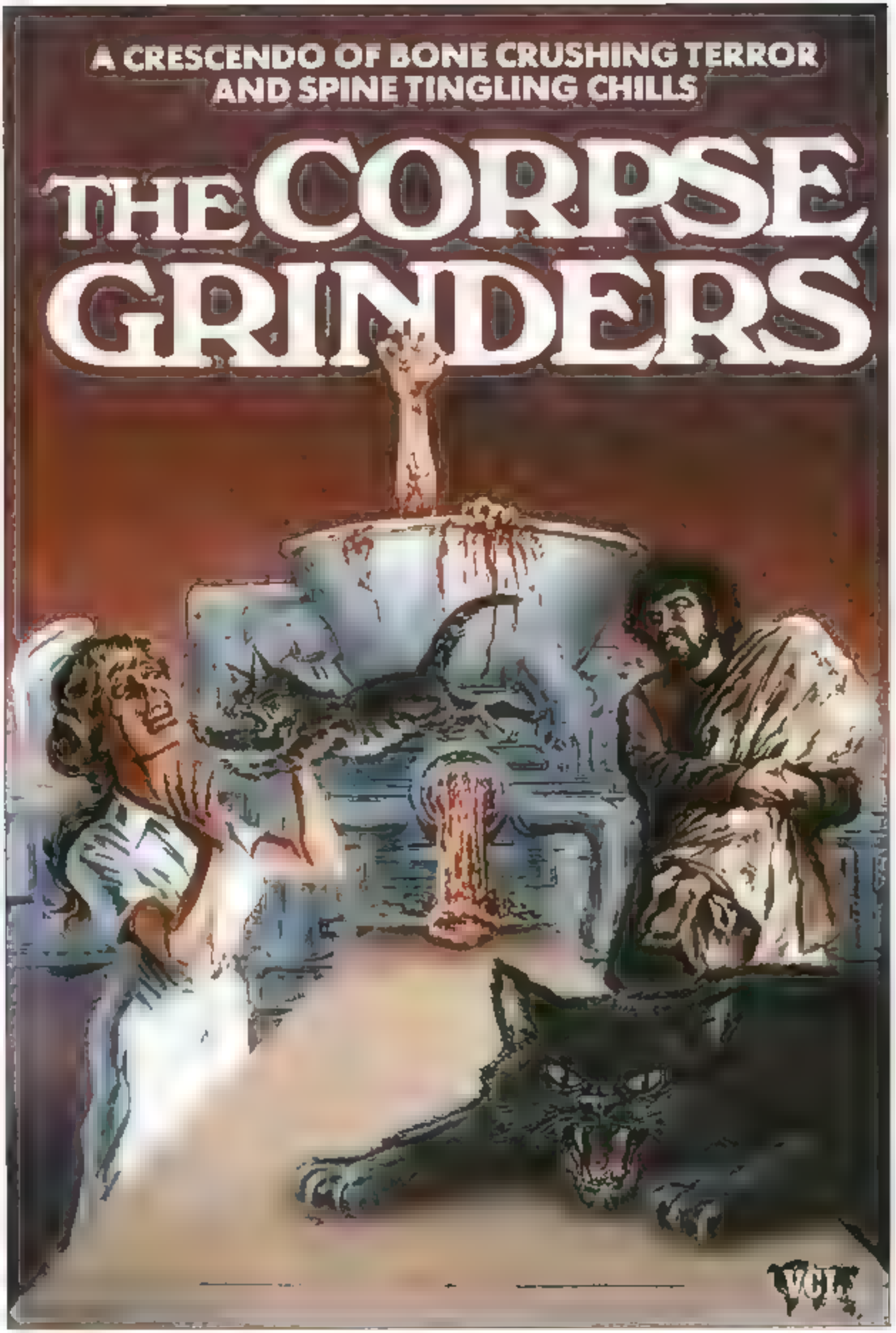
INTRODUCING BROOKE SHIELDS

Communion (VCL, August 1982)

The Confessional Murders (RCA/Columbia Pictures, March 1983)

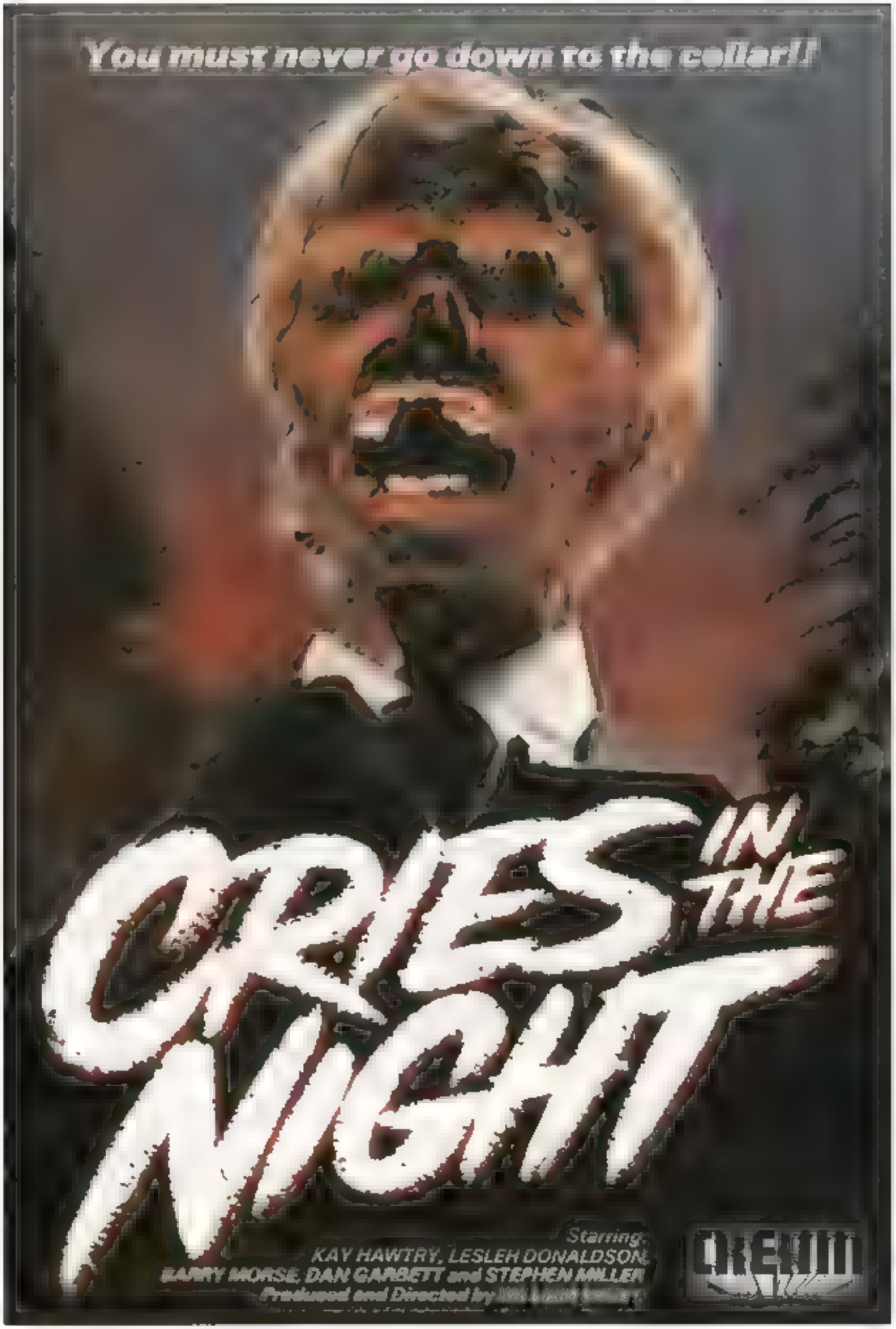
A CRESCENDO OF BONE CRUSHING TERROR
AND SPINE TINGLING CHILLS

THE CORPSE GRINDERS



The Corpse Grinders (VCL, December 1982)

Crazed (Ambassador [Derann], September 1982)

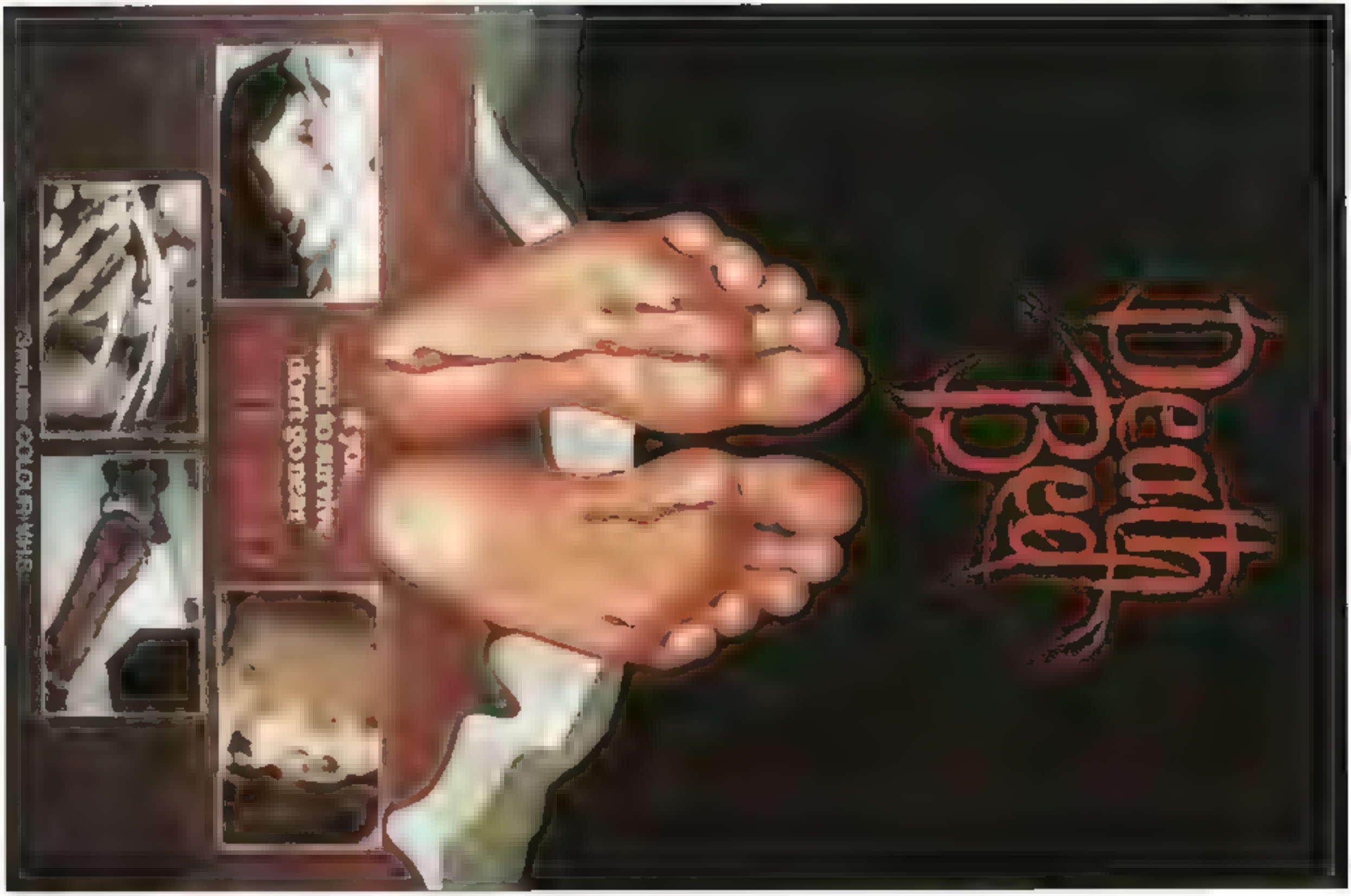

You must never go down to the cellar!!
CRIES IN THE NIGHT
Starring:
KAY HAWTRY, LESLEH DONALDSON,
BARRY MORSE, DAN GARBETT and STEPHEN MILLER
Produced and Directed by
CREAM

Cries in the Night (Cream Trailblazer) October 1982)

Dark Night of the Scarecrow (Video Unlimited, December 1981)

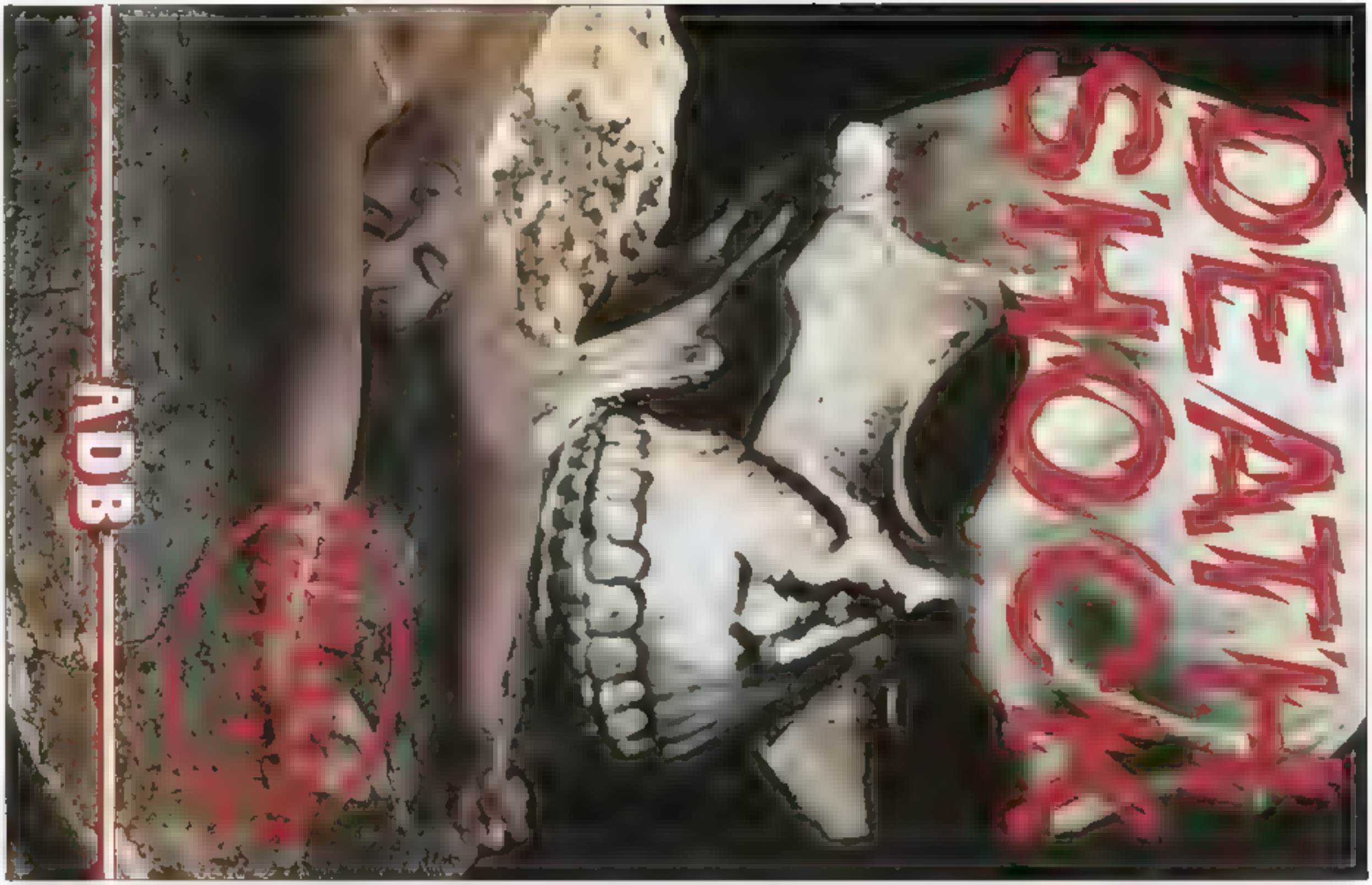
THE DEADLY SPAWN
THEY CAME TO EARTH IN A METEORITE
AS TINY ORGANIC SPORES
BUT AS THEY GREW,
THEY WANTED TO DO ONLY ONE THING . . .
EAT!
SEE WARNING ON REVERSE
RUNNING TIME 80 MINS. APPROX

The Deadly Spawn (VIPCO April 1983)



Death Bed (Portland Films, 1983)

Death Shock (ADB 1983)



"Texas Chainsaw Massacre" director Tobe Hooper gives you another orgy of blood and terror!!
DEATH TRAP
VIPCO
Neville Brand, Mel Ferrer, Marilyn Burns, William Finley, Carolyn Jones & Stuart Whitman
Tobe Hooper
Mardi Rustam
SEE WARNING ON REVERSE
RUNNING TIME 86 MINS APPROX

Death Trap (VIPCO July 1982)

It began with a rape.
It ended with a massacre!
DEATH WEEKEND
REITMAN/DUNNING/LINK present
BRENDA VACCARO in "DEATH WEEKEND"
starring DON STROUD · CHUCK SHAMATA
co-starring RICHARD AYRES · KYLE EDWARDS · DON GRANBERY
executive producers JOHN DUNNING · ANDRE LINK
produced by IVAN REITMAN
written and directed by WILLIAM FRUET
COLOUR
VAMPIX
a Videomedia release

Death Weekend (Vampix (Videomedia), June 1982)

Deep River Savages (Derann, November 1982)

VTC

VTC 1022
Distributed by

VIOLENT THRILLER

DELIRIUM

They shall have murder
wherever they go . . .

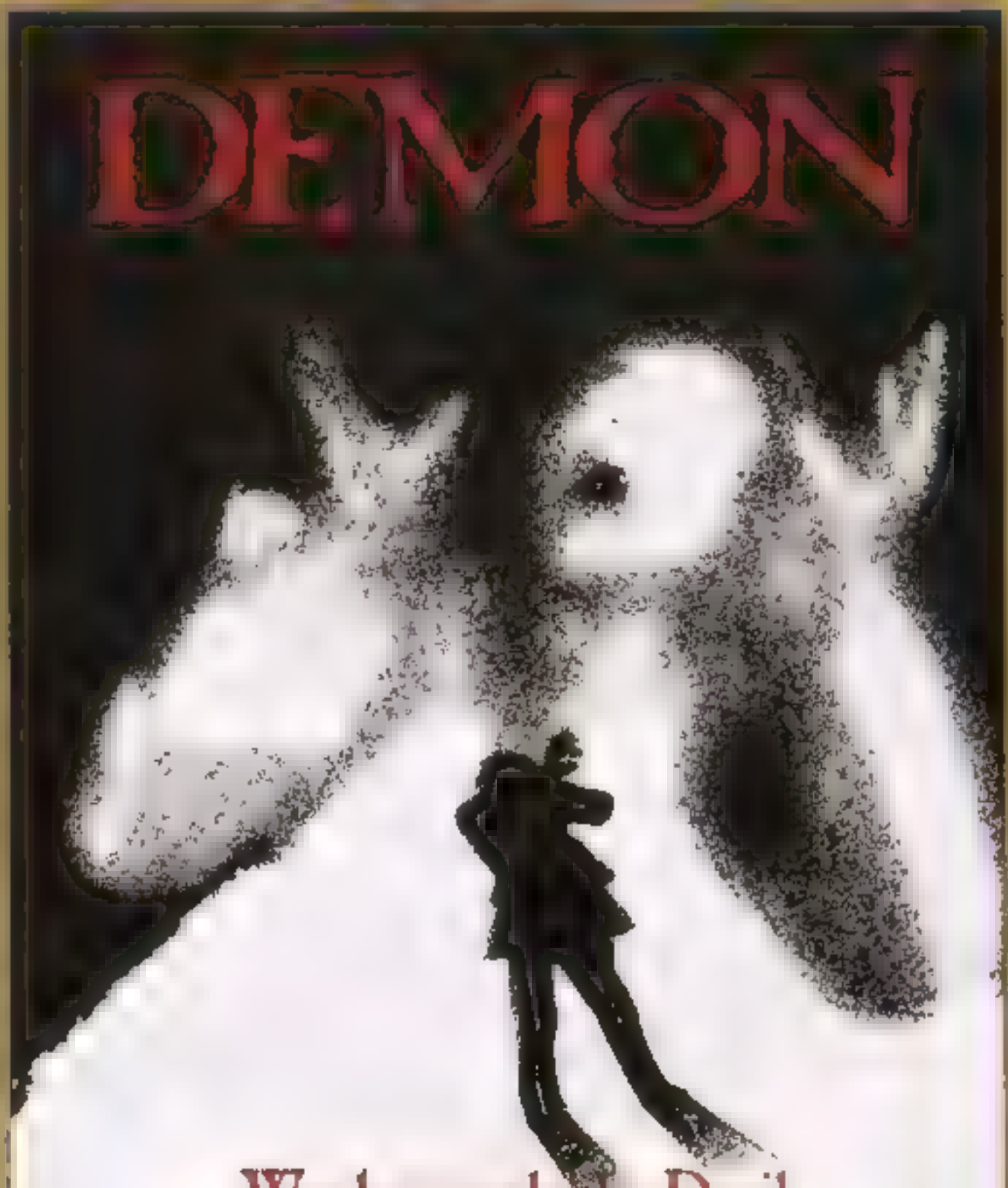
Delirium (Video Tape Center, July 1982)

Demented (Media Home Entertainment, July 1982)

VTC

VIDEO TAPE CENTER

DEMON



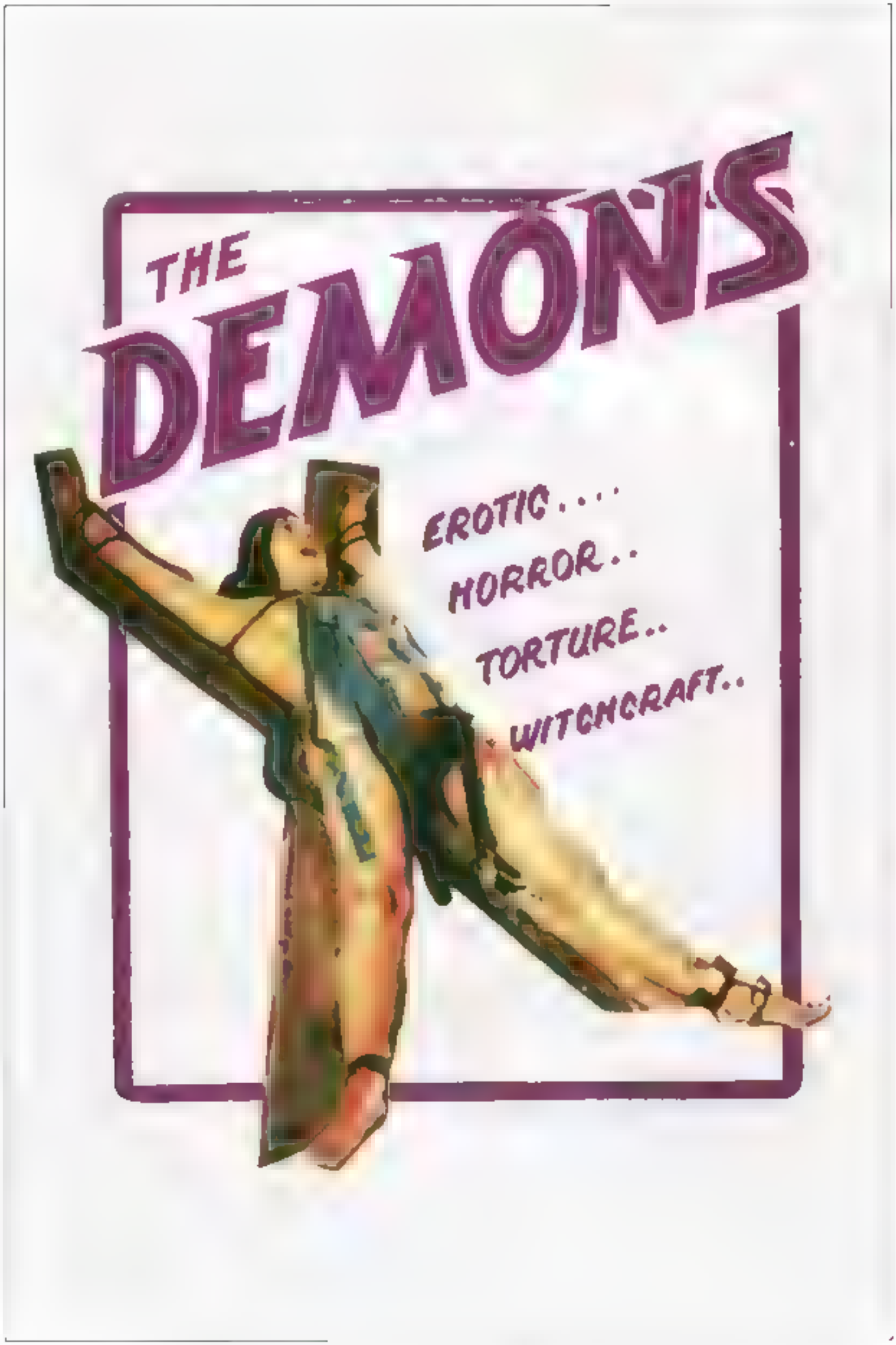
Was he a god · the Devil
or something even more terrifying...

Distributed by

Colour 95 minutes
VTC 1038

Demon (Video Tape Center, November 1982)

The Demon (FilmTown, December 1983)



The Demons (Go, 1981)

The Devil Hunter (Cinehollywood. November 1981)

Go ahead and SCREAM AMANDA
it can't help you now!
DIE SISTER, DIE!
Starring
JACK GING • EDITH ATWATER • ANTOINETTE BOWER • KENT SMITH • ROBERT EMHARDT • BURT SANTOS
PICTURES

Die Sister, Die! (Video Form, March 1982)

RUN - if you must

HIDE - if you can

SCREAM

but...

DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE!

X

....He'll Know You're Alone!

Starring
JAMES WESTMORELAND · FLO GERRISH · ROBERT HAMMER

Directed by

Don't Answer the Phone! (Jaguar, October 1981)

Don't Go in the House Arcade, May 1982)

Everyone has nightmares about the ugliest way to die.
DON'T GO IN THE WOODS ...alone!
R WARNING
NICK McCLELLAND
JAMES P. HAYDEN · KEN CARTER & TOM DRURY
MANSON INTERNATIONAL
VIDEO RELEASING ORGANIZATION

Don't Go in the Woods... Alone! (Video Releasing Organization, March 1982)

Don't Go Near the Park (Home Video Productions, 1983)

Don't Look in the Basement (Crystal [Deram] 20 February 1983)

Dracula v Frankenstein (Rainbow, March 1982)

The Driller Killer (VIPCO February 1982)

Drive-In Massacre (LRV 1982)

Drops of Blood (Market: February 1984)

The Dunwich Horror (Guild, April 1982)

WHAT'S 12 FT. TALL AND EATS PEOPLE
DAVID GRANT PRESENTS
E.T.
THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NASTIE
(NOT ALL ALIENS ARE NICE)
STARRING JOHN AGAR
CAROL GILLEY · RALPH BAKER Jnr. · DOROTHY DAMS · BILL THURMAN
ROGER READY · FRANK JOLLY · DARLENE DREW
STORY AND SCREENPLAY BY RUSS MARKER
DIRECTED BY JAMES A. SULLIVAN

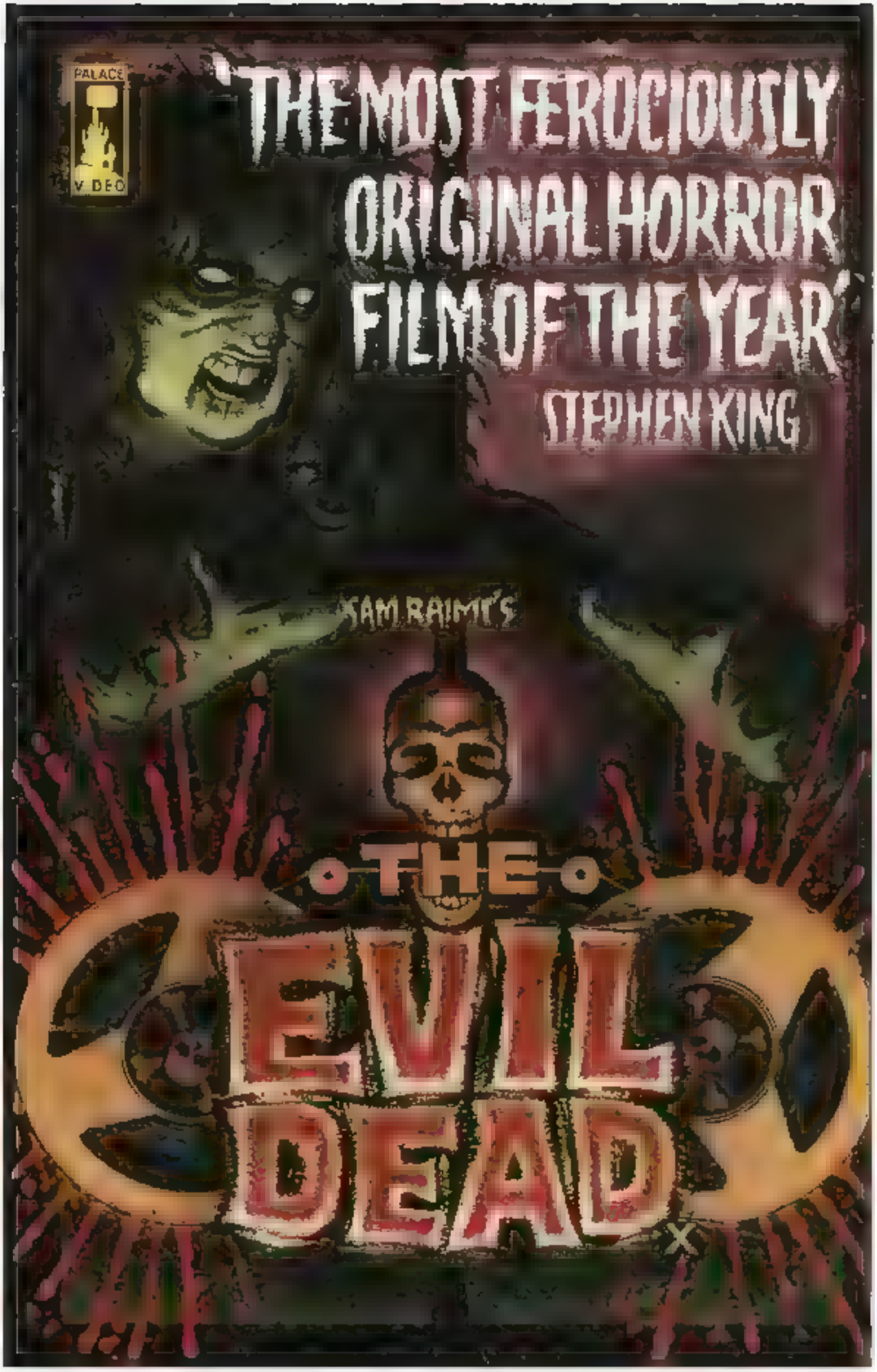
E.T.n. The Extra-Terrestrial Nastie (Dalton, 20 February 1983)

Eaten Alive (Vampix Videomedia, May 1982)

Equinox (Mountain, January 1980)

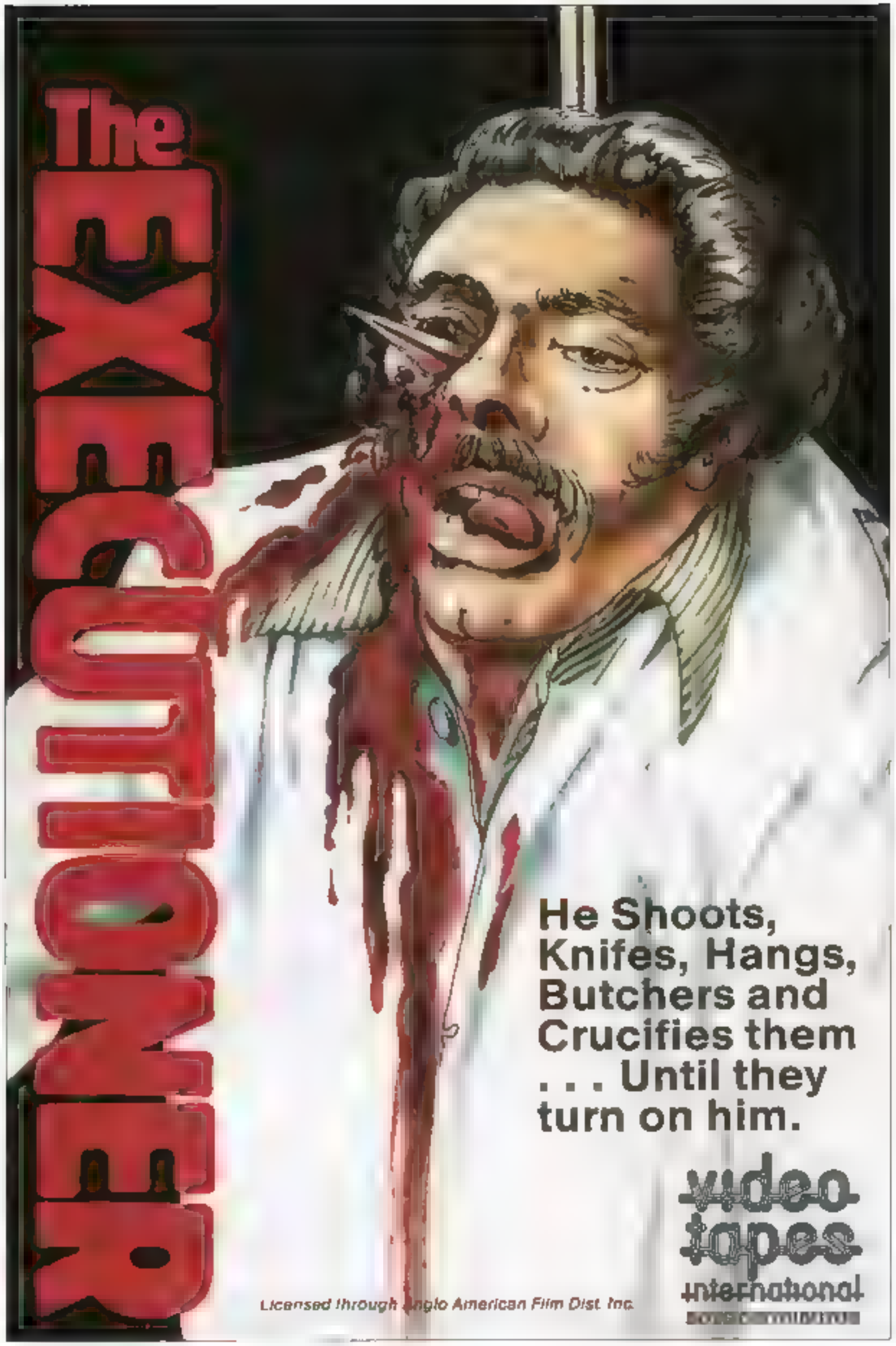
The Erotic Rites of Frankenstein (Go, November 1981)

Evil Come Evil Go (Mercury January 1983)



The Evil Dead (Palace, 24 February 1983)

Evilspeak (FilmTown, August 1983)



The Executioner (Video Tapes International, 1983)

Exorcism (Canon, December 1982)

NOTHING IS LEFT TO THE IMAGINATION!
IN HER FIRST SCREEN ROLE

FIONA RICHMOND

BRITAIN's No 1 SEX SYM

Exposé

FIONA RICHMOND ● [illegible] ● UDO KIER

Written and Directed by [illegible] ELM CLARKE

Produced by BRIAN [illegible] Y ASTON

intervision
PRE RECORDED VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT

ADULT - EROTIC DRAMA - COLOUR

Exposé (Intervision, 1979)

FACES OF DEATH

Prepare yourself for the ultimate experience.
This video cassette will change your attitude
to life.

Executive Producer: William B. James
Producer: Rosilyn T. Scott
Director: Conan Le Cilaire

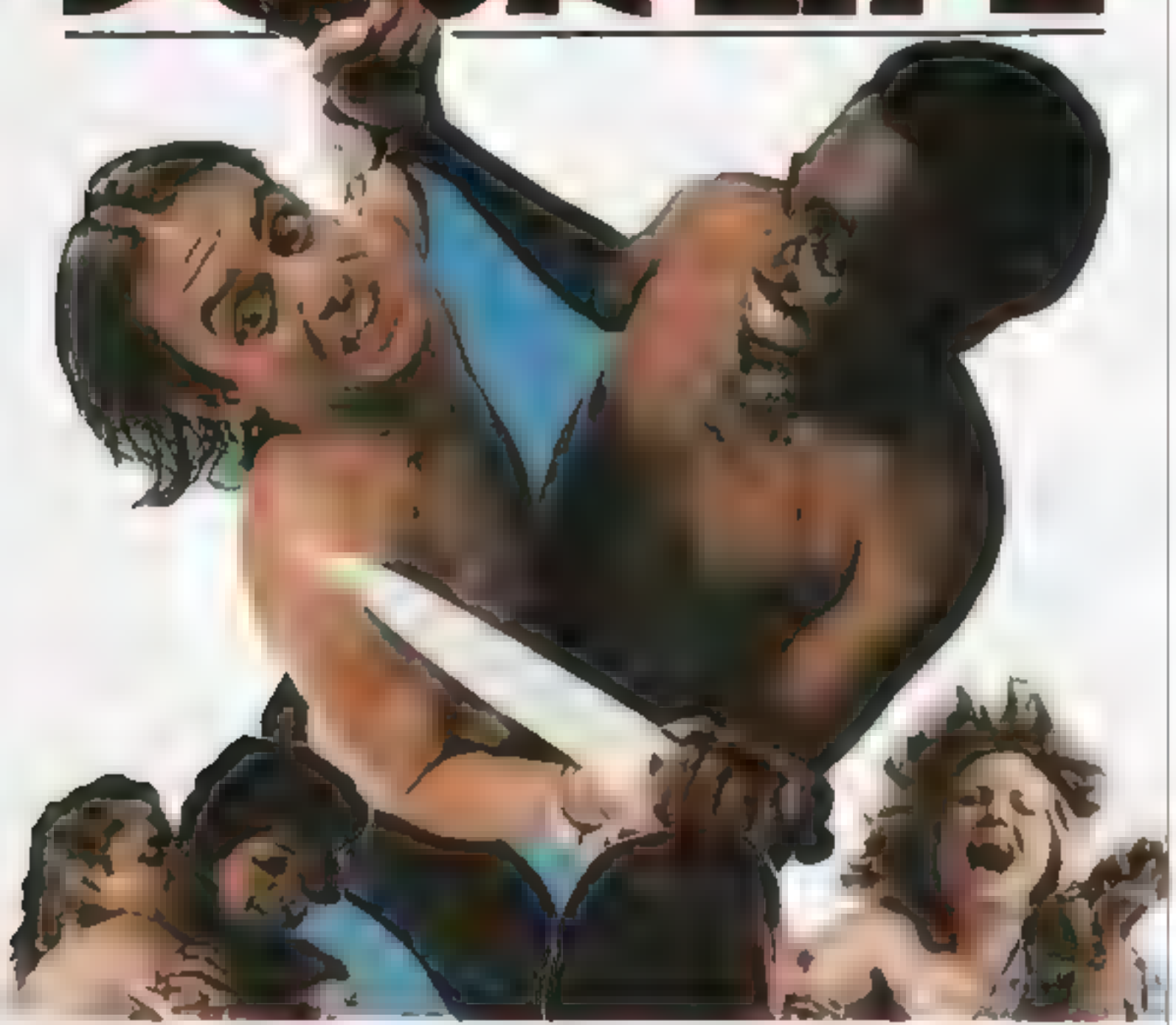
TRUE LIFE HORROR
Colour • AVP 601

Faces of Death (Atlantis Video Productions, 7 September 1982)

Fiend (Video Unlimited, September 1982)

89 minutes of sheer terror

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE



vision on video film company

Fight for Your Life (Vision-On, 1982)

Flesh Eaters (Knockout, 1981)

Forest of Fear (Monte, November 1982)

The Forest (Pyramid, December 1983)

Frankenstein Island (Ambassador [Delann] September 1982)

Frankenstein's Castle of Freaks (Abacus, February 1983)

Home VIDEO Productions

Frozen Scream

Directed by Frank Roach
Produced by Renee Harmon

DISTRIBUTED BY

Intervision
THE FIRST NAME IN VIDEO.
THE LAST WORD IN ENTERTAINMENT.

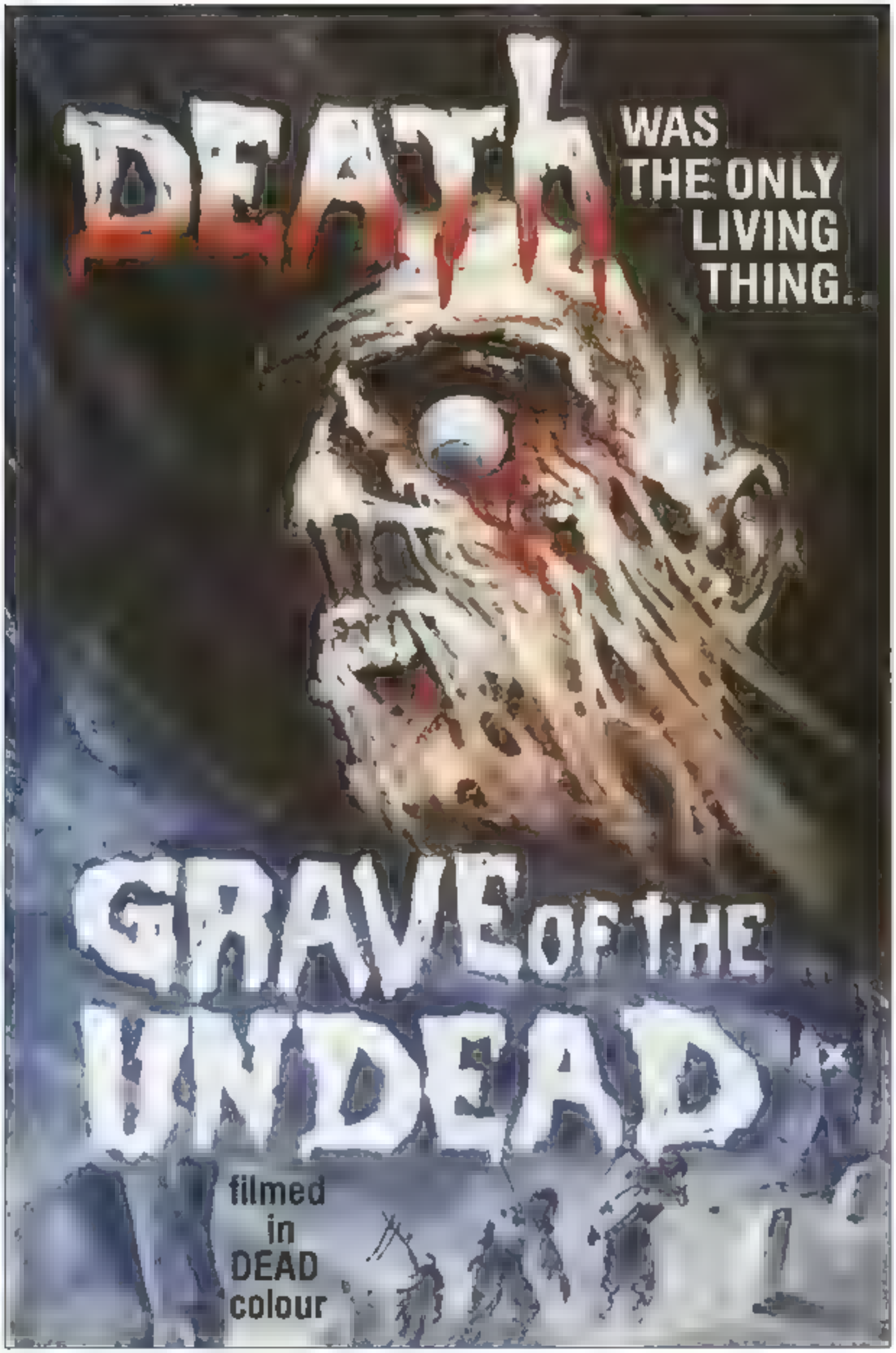
HORROR-COLOUR
A-AE 0433

Frozen Scream (Home Video Productions, 1983)

Funhouse (CIC, 10 June 1983)

GBH - Grievous Bodily Harm (Dalton, 22 March 1983)

Gestapo's Last Orgy (Video Film Promotions, 1983)



Grave of the Undead (KM, April 1982)

HELL HAS NO GREATER FURY THAN A WOMAN'S REVENGE!
SALLY STRUTHERS in
A GUN IN THE HOUSE
DAVID ACKROYD • DICK ANTHONY WILLIAMS • JOEL BAILEY
FRANK KOPPALA • JEFFREY TAMBOR • ALLAN RICH
Director of Photography DENNIS DALZELL • Edited by JERROLD L. LUDWIG A.C.E.
Written by STEPHEN ZITO & JAMES M. MILLER
Produced by DAVID DEBIN & PETER LOCKE • Directed by IVAN NAGY
RELEASED BY Telepictures

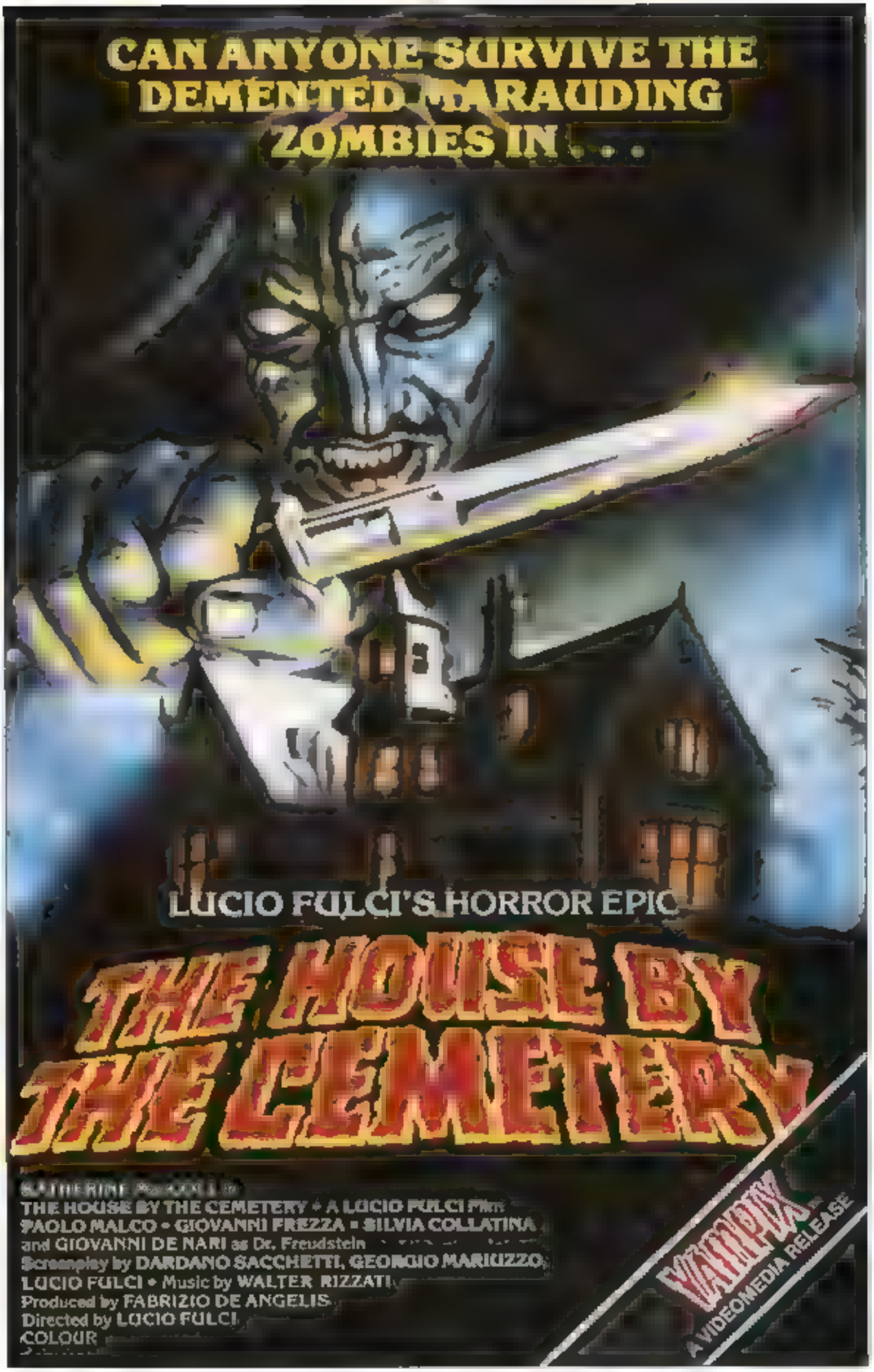
A Gun in the House (Spectrum, June 1982)

Headless Eyes (Sapphire [Avi] 17 November 1982)

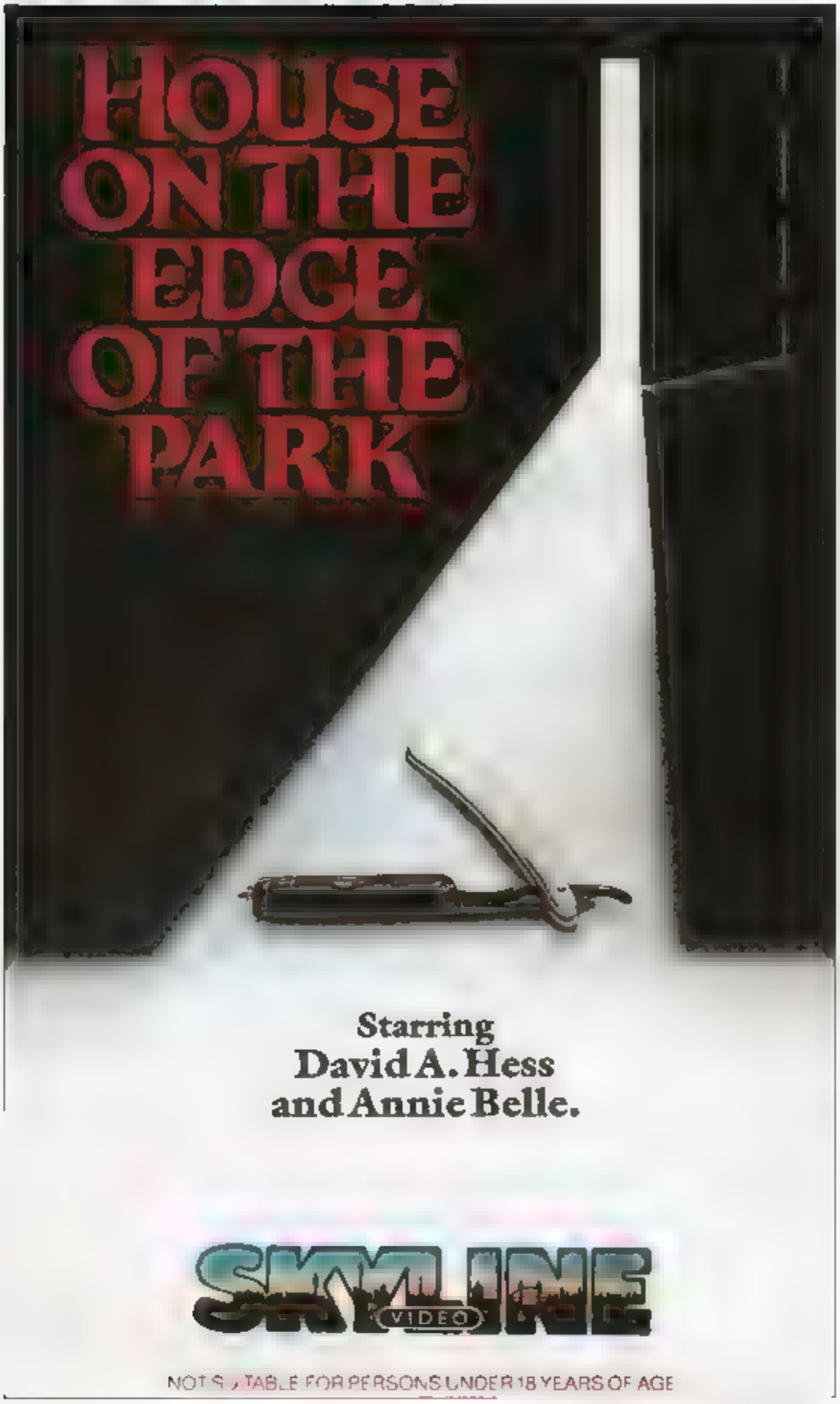
THE HILLS HAVE EYES
THE LUCKY ONES DIED FIRST....
Just keep telling yourself it's only a film it's only a film....
A film by WES
SUSAN LANIER, ROBERT HOUSTON,

The Hills Have Eyes (Jaguar, April 1981)

Honeymoon Horror (AVI, 27 September 1982)


CAN ANYONE SURVIVE THE DEMENTED MARAUDING ZOMBIES IN . . .
LUCIO FULCI'S HORROR EPIC
THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY
THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY • A LUCIO FULCI Film
PAOLO MALCO • GIOVANNI FREZZA • SILVIA COLLATINA
and GIOVANNI DE NARI as Dr. Freudstein
Screenplay by DARDANO SACCHETTI, GEORGIO MARIUZZO,
LUCIO FULCI • Music by WALTER RIZZATI
Produced by FABRIZIO DE ANGELIS
Directed by LUCIO FULCI
COLOUR
VIPCO
A VIDEOMEDIA RELEASE

The House by the Cemetery (Vampix Videomedia, 27 January 1983)


HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK
Starring
David A. Hess
and Annie Belle.
SKYLINE VIDEO
NOT SUITABLE FOR PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

House on the Edge of the Park (Skyline, 15 October 1982)

Human Experiments (August 1981)

THIS WOMAN HAS JUST...

I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE

AN ACT OF REVENGE!

Starring CAMILLE KEATON ERON TABOR RICHARD PACE ANTHONY NICHOLS

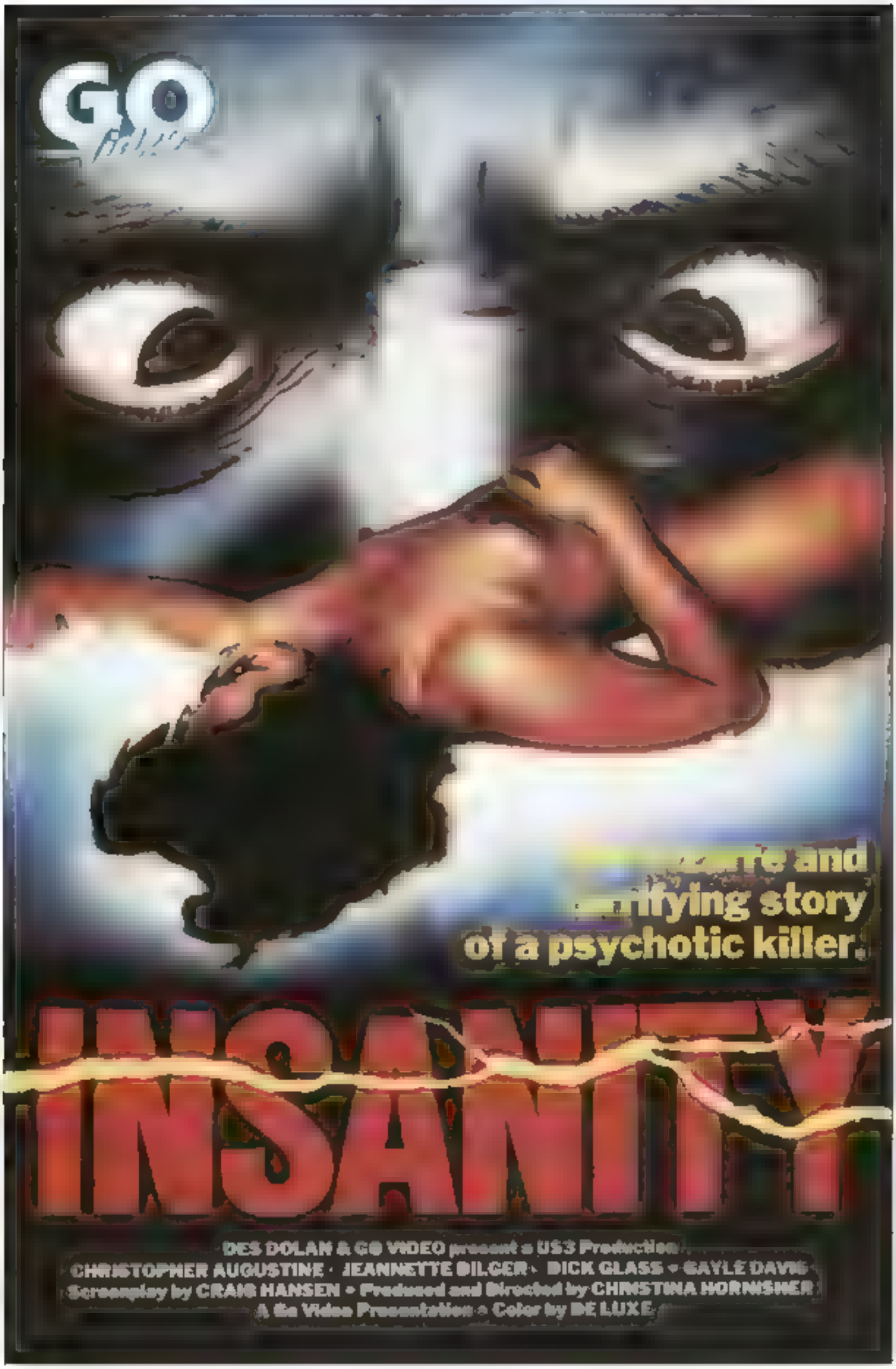
produced by JOSEPH ZBEDA

written and directed by MEIR ZARCHI

RUNNING TIME 98 MIN

ASTRA VIDEO

I Spit on Your Grave (Astra, January 1982)

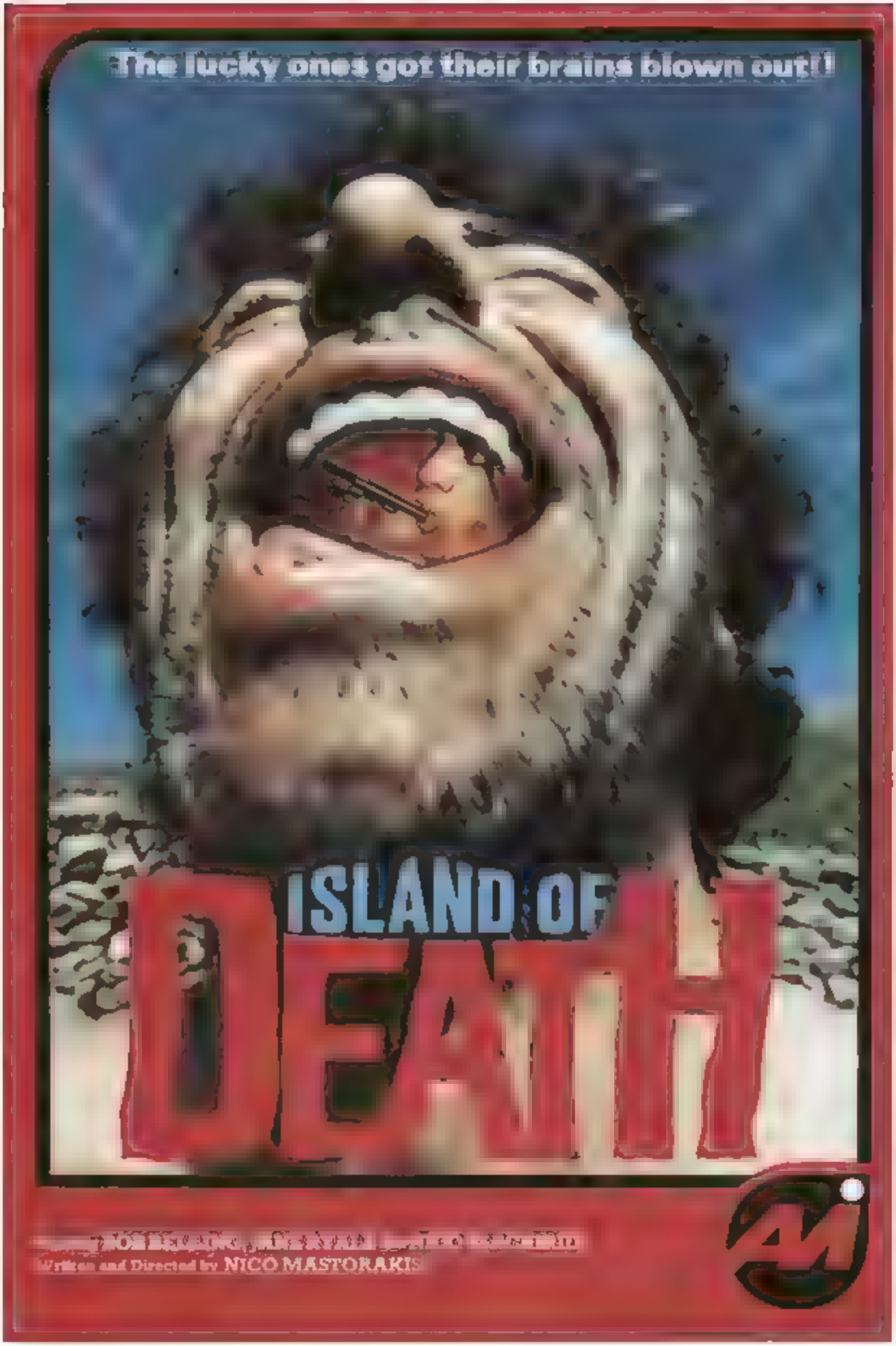

GO
and
rifying story
of a psychotic killer.
INSANITY
DES DOLAN & GO VIDEO present a US3 Production
CHRISTOPHER AUGUSTINE · JEANNETTE DILGER · DICK GLASS · GAYLE DAVIS
Screenplay by CRAIG HANSEN • Produced and Directed by CHRISTINA HORNISHER
A Go Video Presentation • Color by DE LUXE

Insanity (Go, November 1982)

Inseminoid (Brent Walker, November 1981)

Invasion of the Blood Farmers (Rainbow, March 1982)

Invitation to Hell (Scorpio, 15 July 1983)


The lucky ones got their brains blown out!!
ISLAND OF
DEATH
Written and Directed by NICO MASTORAKIS

CITYCENTA VIDEO

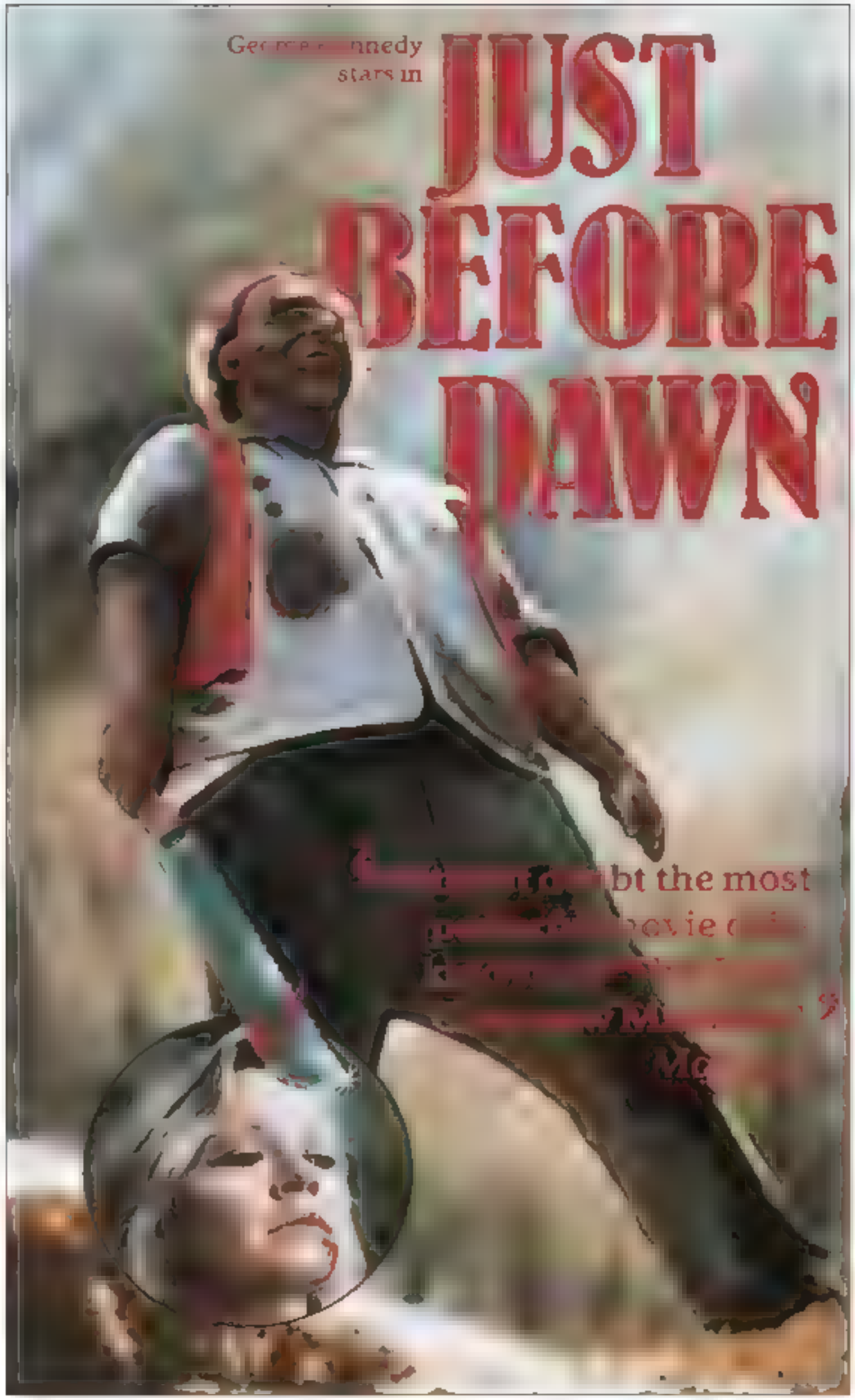
JOURNEY INTO THE BEYOND

...Omen" and "The Exorcist" were fu...
but are you ready for the real thing!

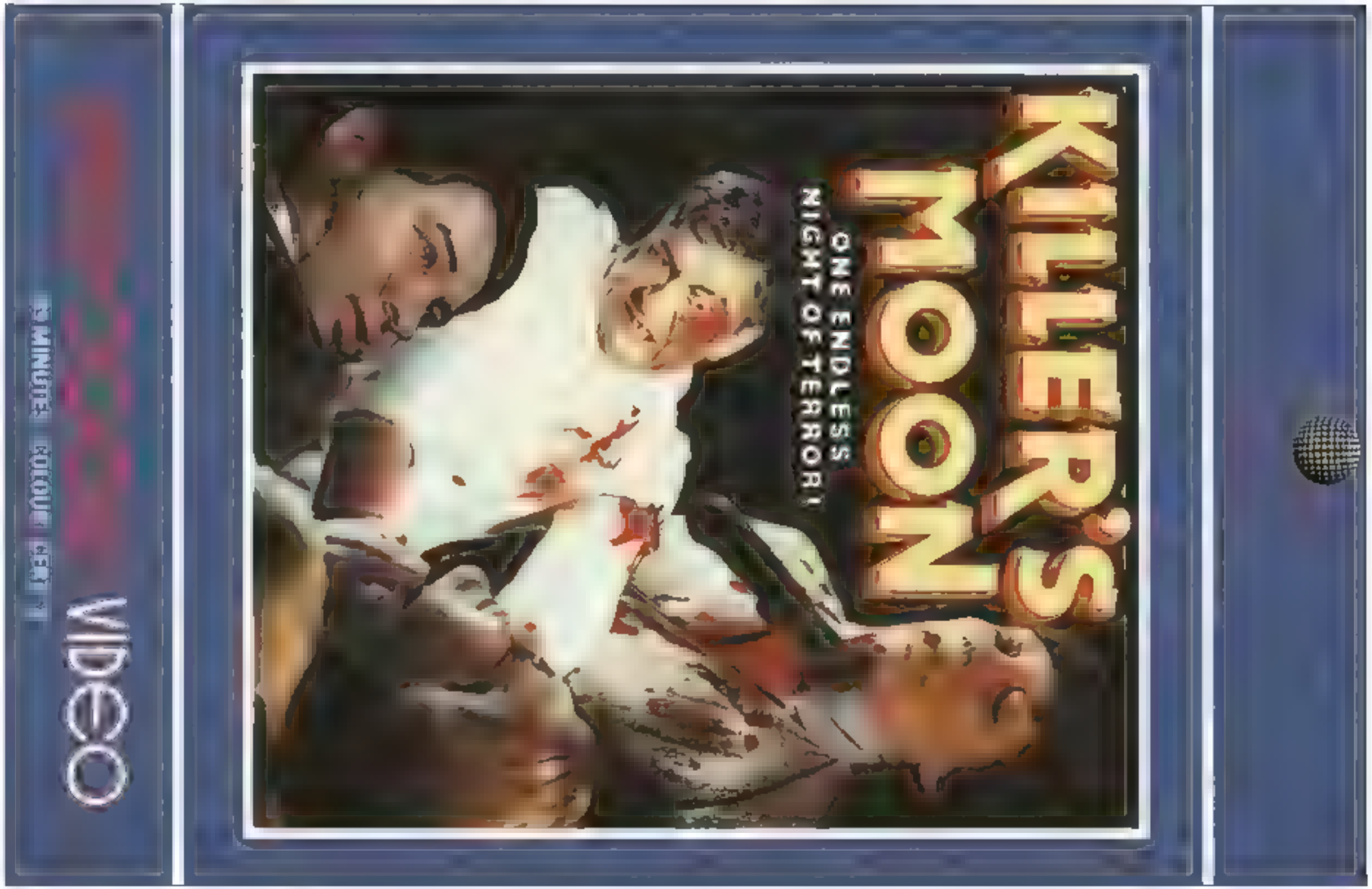
THE WORLD'S GREATEST MASTERS OF THE OCCULT
DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPERPOWERS IN A MIND
SHATTERING DISPLAY OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA
AND THE SUPERNATURAL.

BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT

Journey Into The Beyond (Citycenta [Gb], September 1982)



Just Before Dawn (Rank, August 1983)



K M (Inter Ocean, November 1981)

alpha video

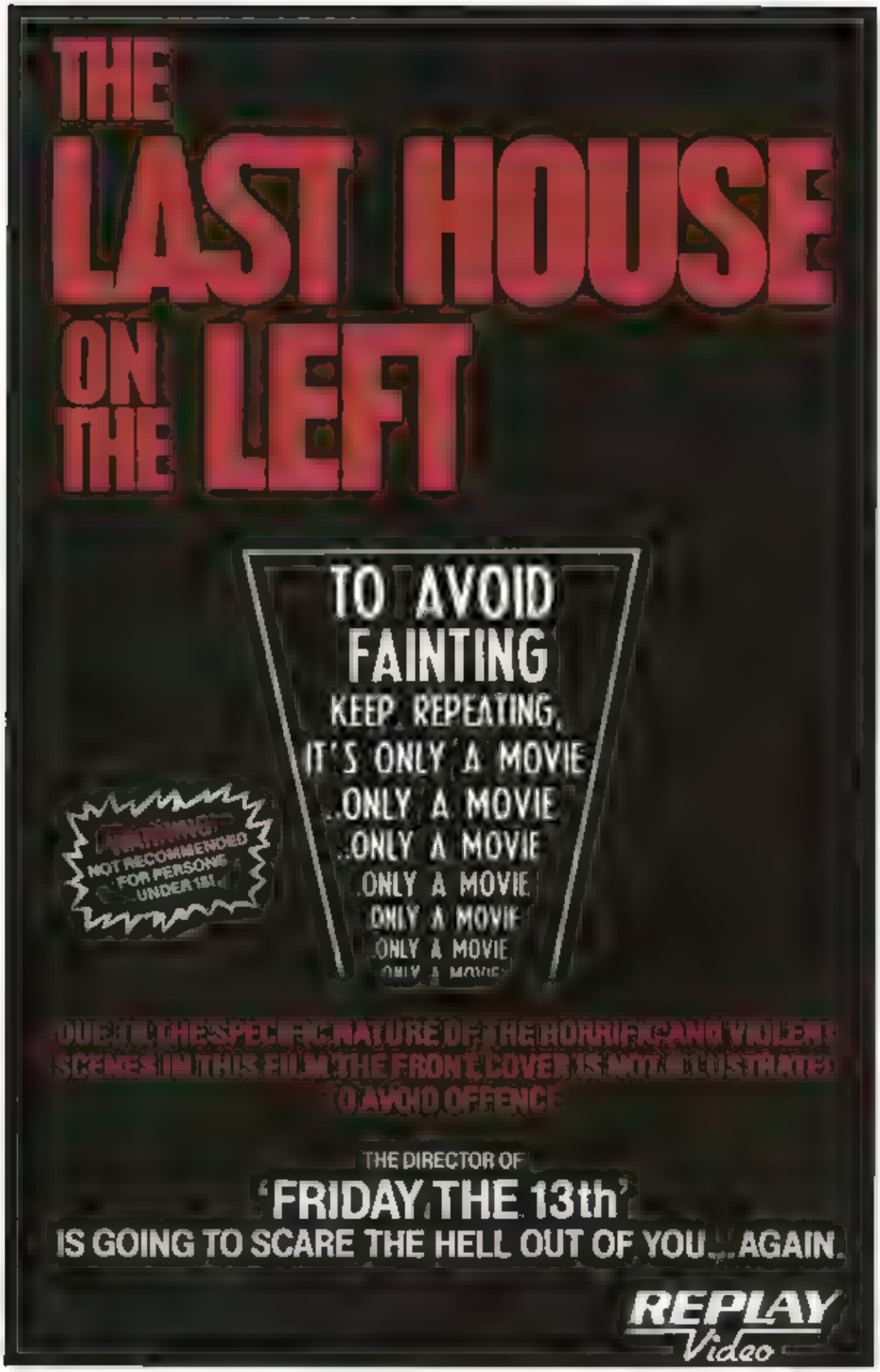
JOE SPINELL & CAROLINE MUNRO IN

THE LAST HORROR FILM

THE FIRST NAME IN VIDEO

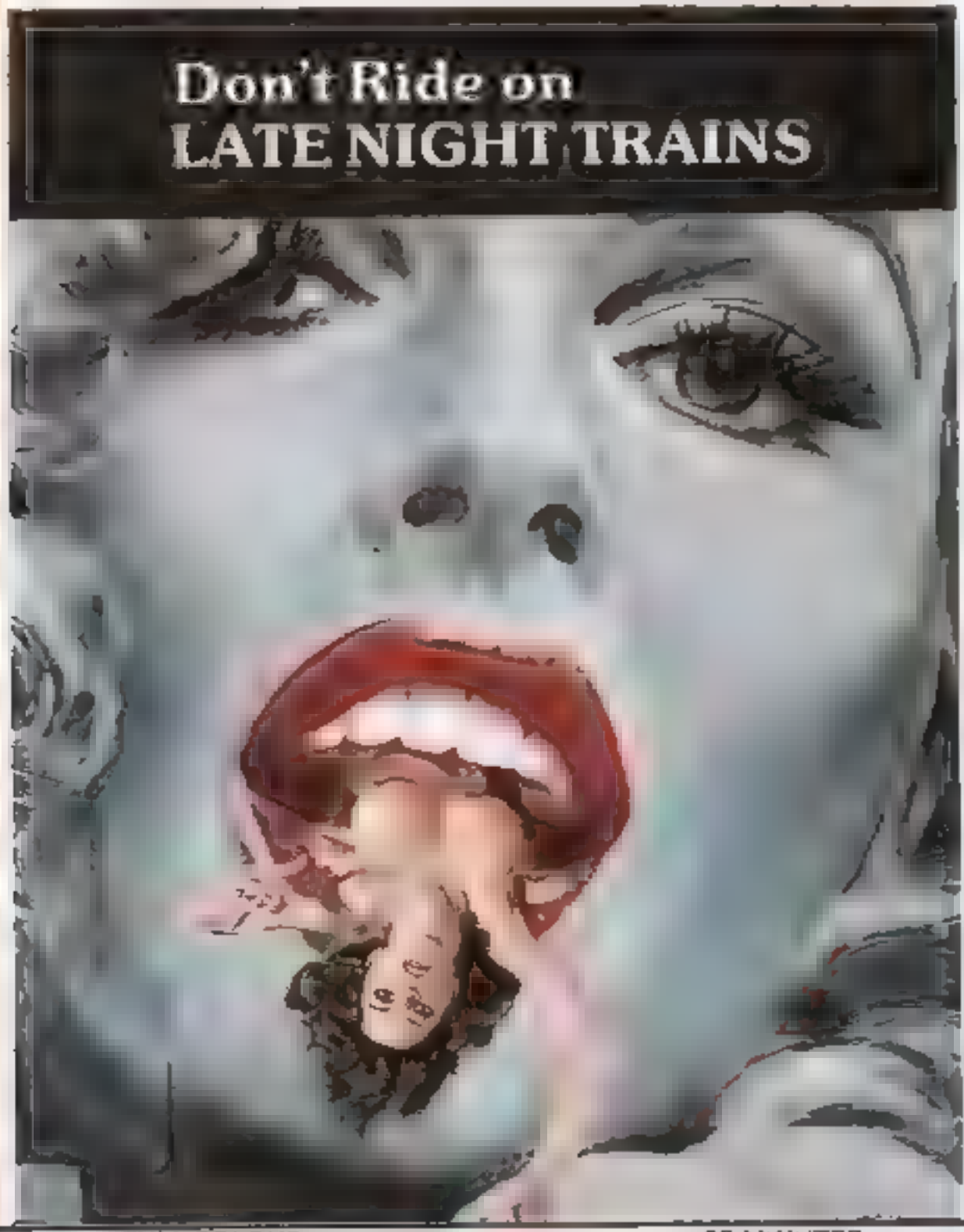
THRILLER-COLOUR
AA 0469

The Last Horror Film (Alpha, 29 June 1983)



The Last House on the Left (Replay June 1982)

SCREAMING TERROR GF506



FULL COLOUR 89 MINUTES

Spine tingling thriller

Two girls take a terror ride on the Trans European Express

VIDEO WAREHOUSE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
328 HUNSLET ROAD, LEEDS LS10 1NJ

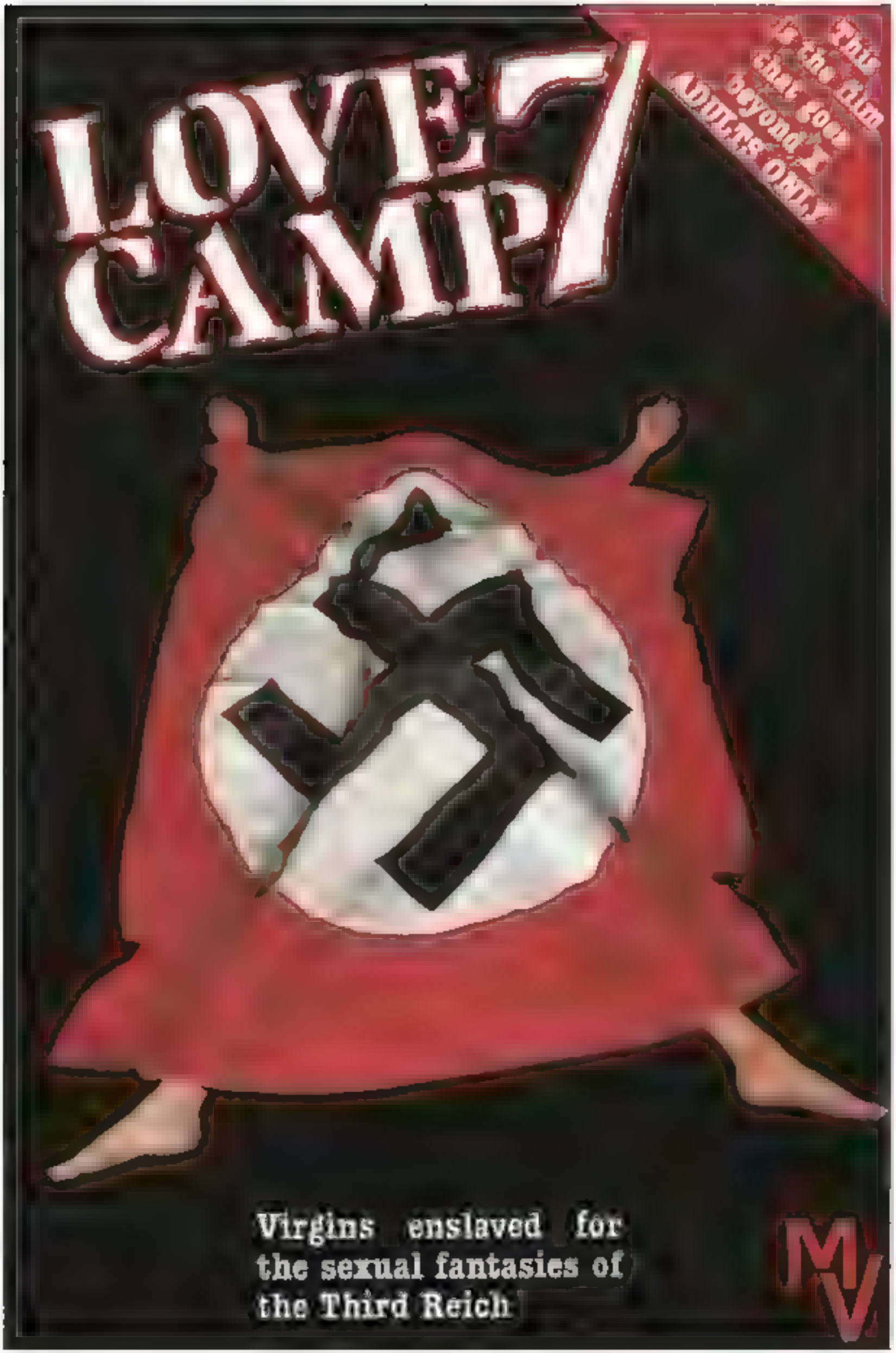
Full Length Movies From The World's Leading Directors

Late Night Trains (Video Warehouse International, 1981)

Leanor (Vox, 1983)

The Living Dead (Video Independent Productions, June 1982)

The Love Butcher (Intervision, 1979)

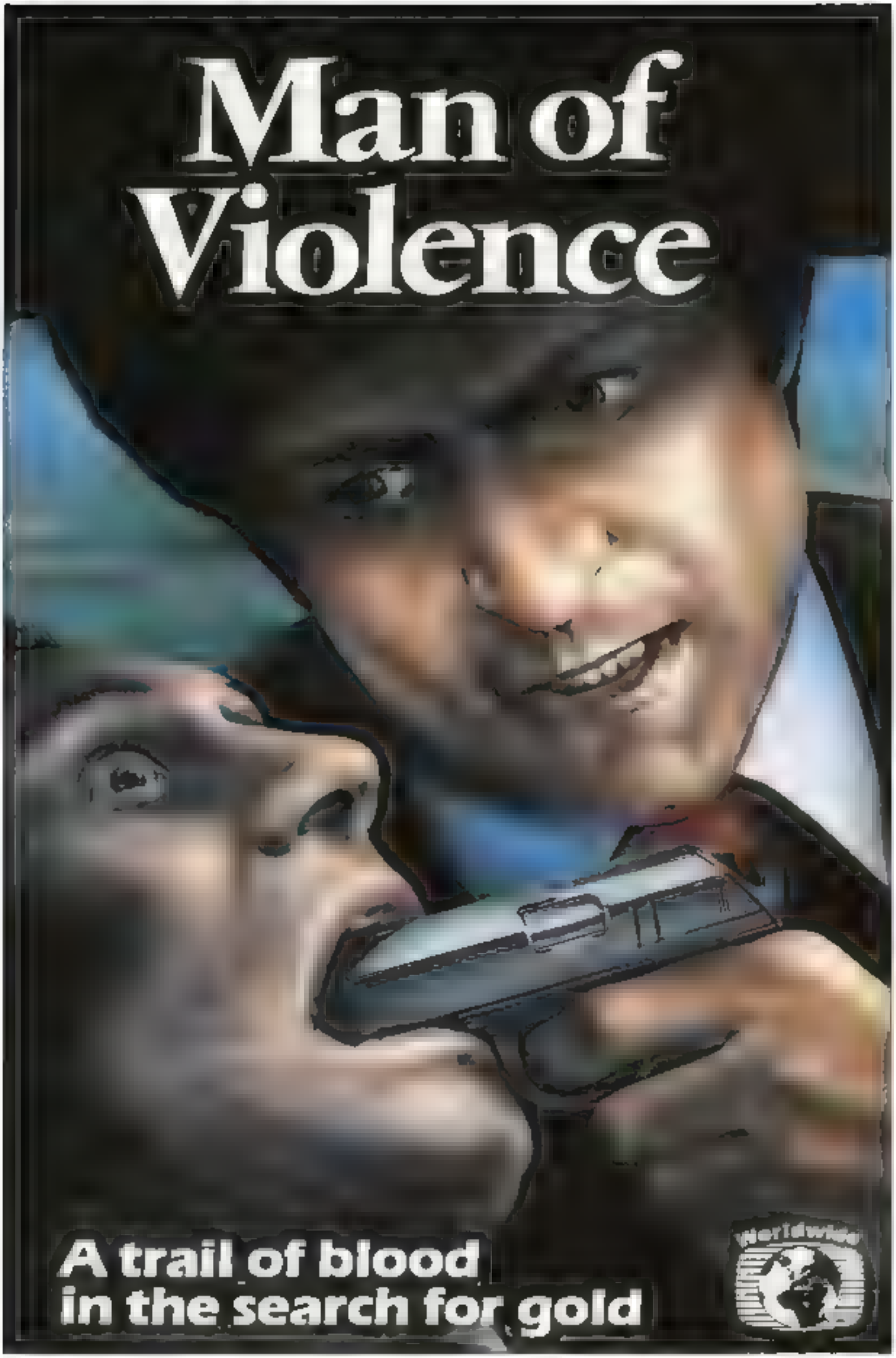

LOVE CAMP 7
You can run, but you can't hide beyond the gates only
Virgins enslaved for the sexual fantasies of the Third Reich

Love Camp 7 (Markel, 1983)

Macabre (Go, May 1982)

MADHOUSE
starring TRISH EVERLY, DENNIS ROBERTSON, MICHAEL MACRAE
MORGAN HART and RICHARD BAKER
produced and directed by OVIDIO G. ASSONITIS
Running time: 90 mins. approx. Colour

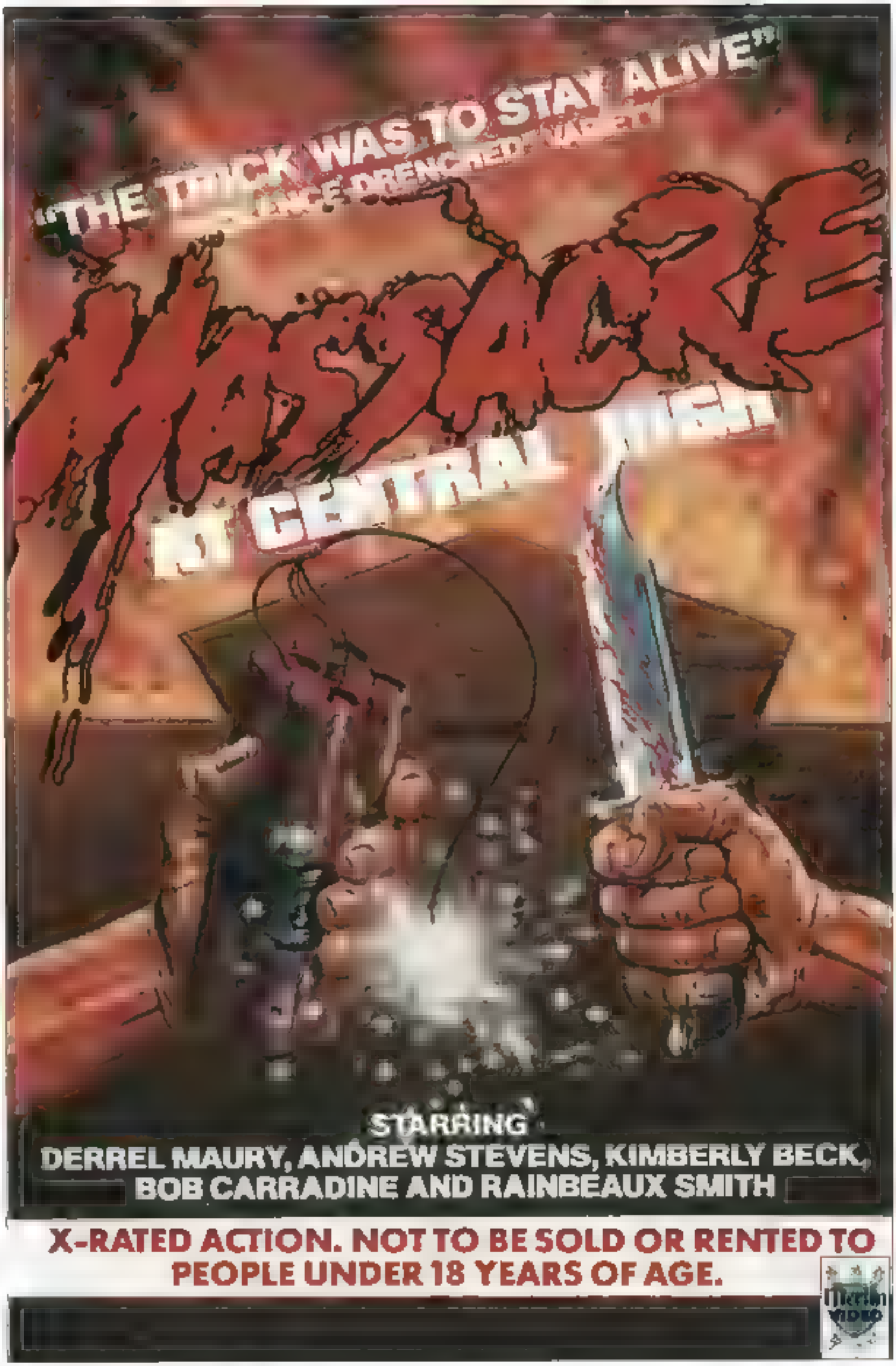
Madhouse (Medusa, January 1983)



Man of Violence (Worldwide, April 1983)

Mardi Gras Massacre (Goldstar/Berenn) July 1982

The Mask (Prestige January 1984)


"THE TRICK WAS TO STAY ALIVE"
MASSACRE
AT CENTRAL HIGH
STARRING
DERREL MAURY, ANDREW STEVENS, KIMBERLY BECK,
BOB CARRADINE AND RAINBEAUX SMITH
X-RATED ACTION. NOT TO BE SOLD OR RENTED TO
PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.
Merlin VIDEO

Massacre at Central High (Merlin, July 1982)

Massacre Mansion (VIPCO 28 June 1983)

alpha video

DISTRIBUTED BY
Entertainment
THE FIRST NAME IN VIDEO.
THE LAST WORD IN ENTERTAINMENT.

HORROR
COLOUR
A-A 0451

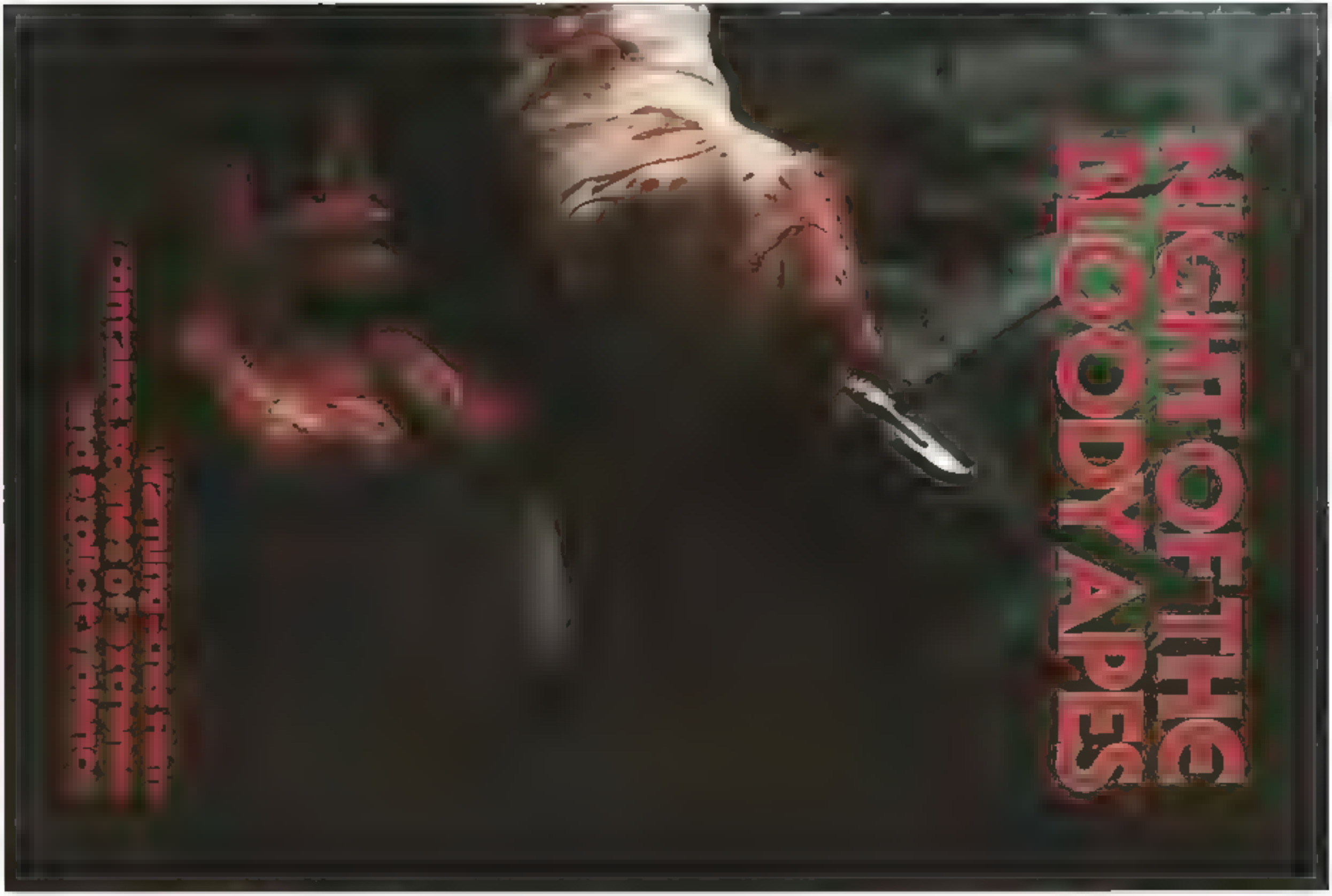
Midnight (Alpha, January 1983)

There was only one thing
more terrifying than leaving the house
staying in
The Nesting
Starring
ROBIN GROVES with CHRISTOPHER LOOMIS, MICHAEL DAVID LALLY,
JOHN CARRADINE and GLORIA GRAHAME
Executive Producers SAM LAKE & ROBERT SUMNER
Produced & Directed by ARMAND WESTON
RUNNING TIME 100 MINS APPROX

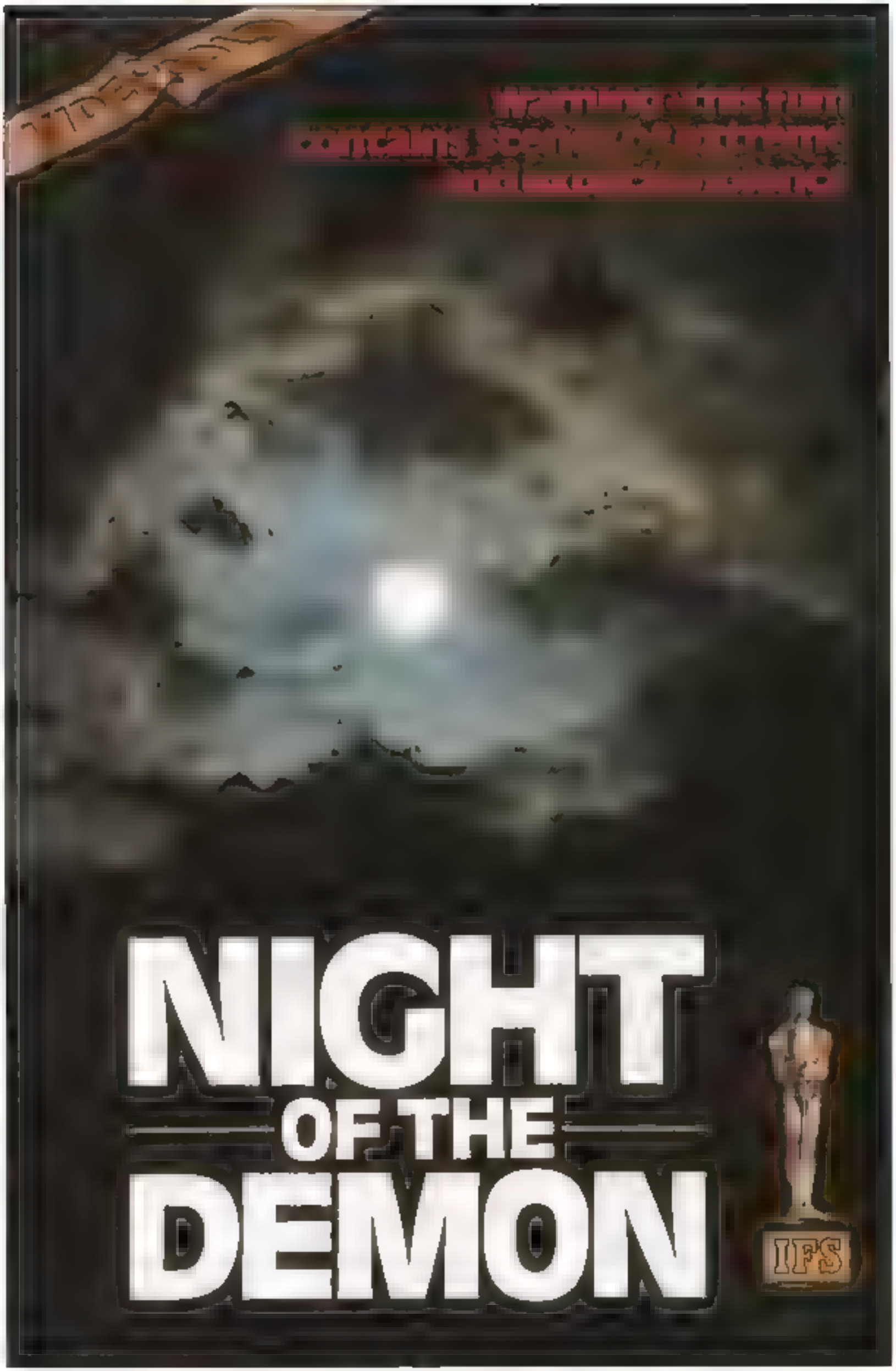
The Nesting (VIPCO October 1982)

Night After Night After Night (Vision-On, June 1982)

The Ripper is waiting
AFTER
NIGHT
AFTER
NIGHT
AFTER
NIGHT

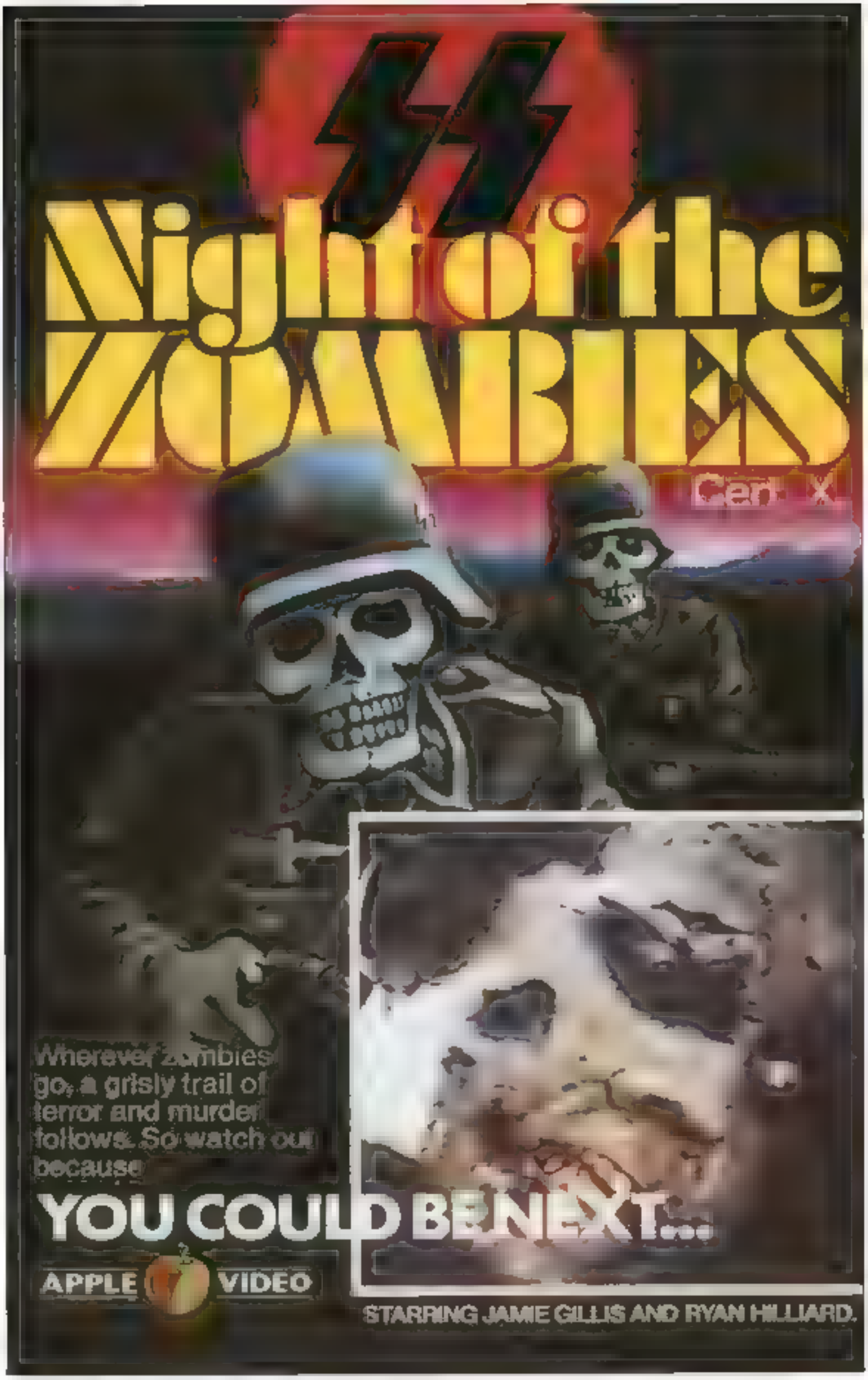


Night of the Bloody Apes (Ivar Film Services, January 1983)



Night of the Demon (Iver Film Services, June 1982)

Night of the Seagulls (Archer 1982)


SS
Night of the
ZOMBIES
Cert X
Wherever zombies go, a grisly trail of terror and murder follows. So watch out because
YOU COULD BE NEXT...
APPLE VIDEO
STARRING JAMIE GILLIS AND RYAN HILLIARD.

Night of the Zombies (Apple, March 1983)

VTC

NIGHTMARE CITY

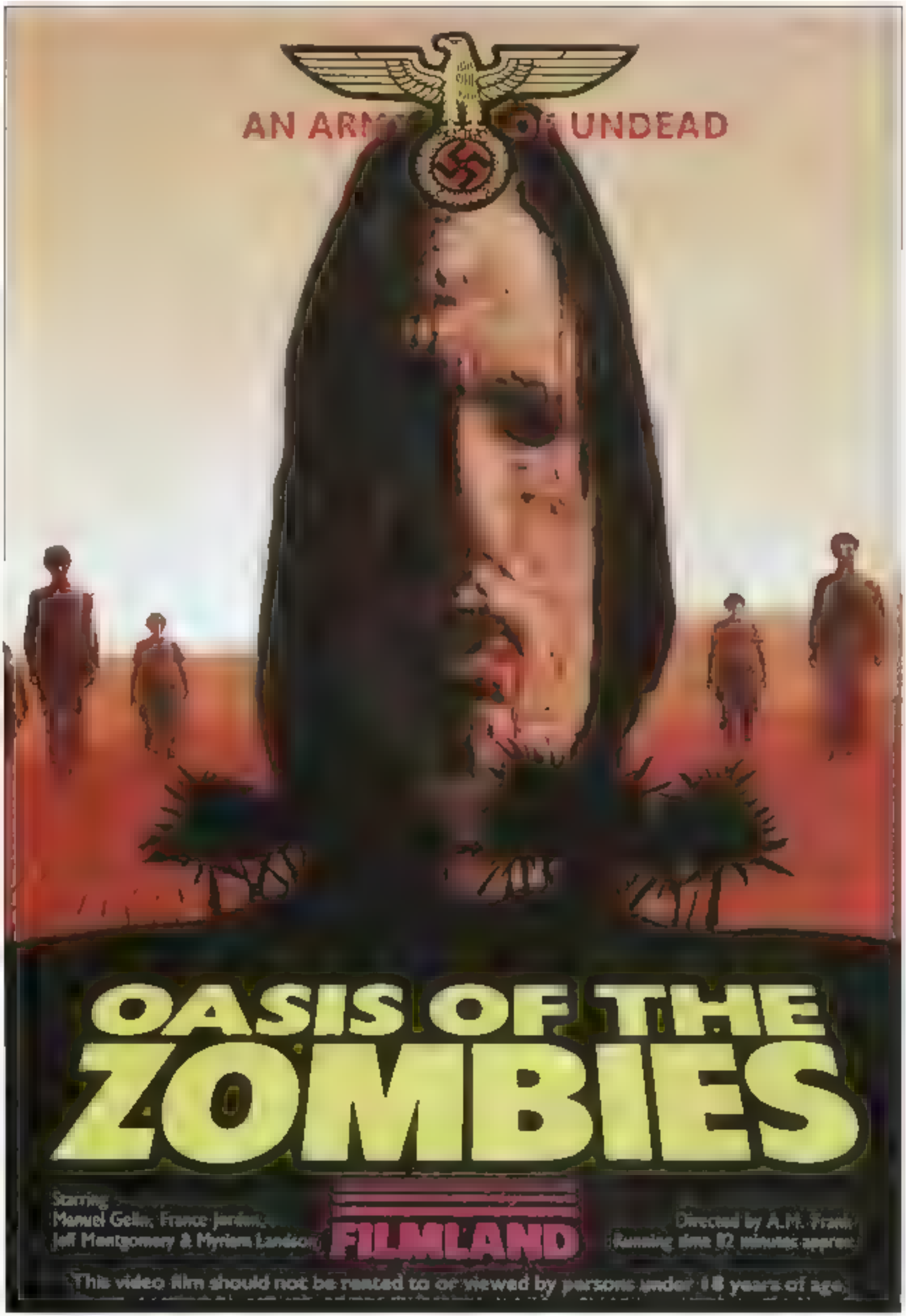
Distributed by

Colour, 90 minutes
VTC 1006

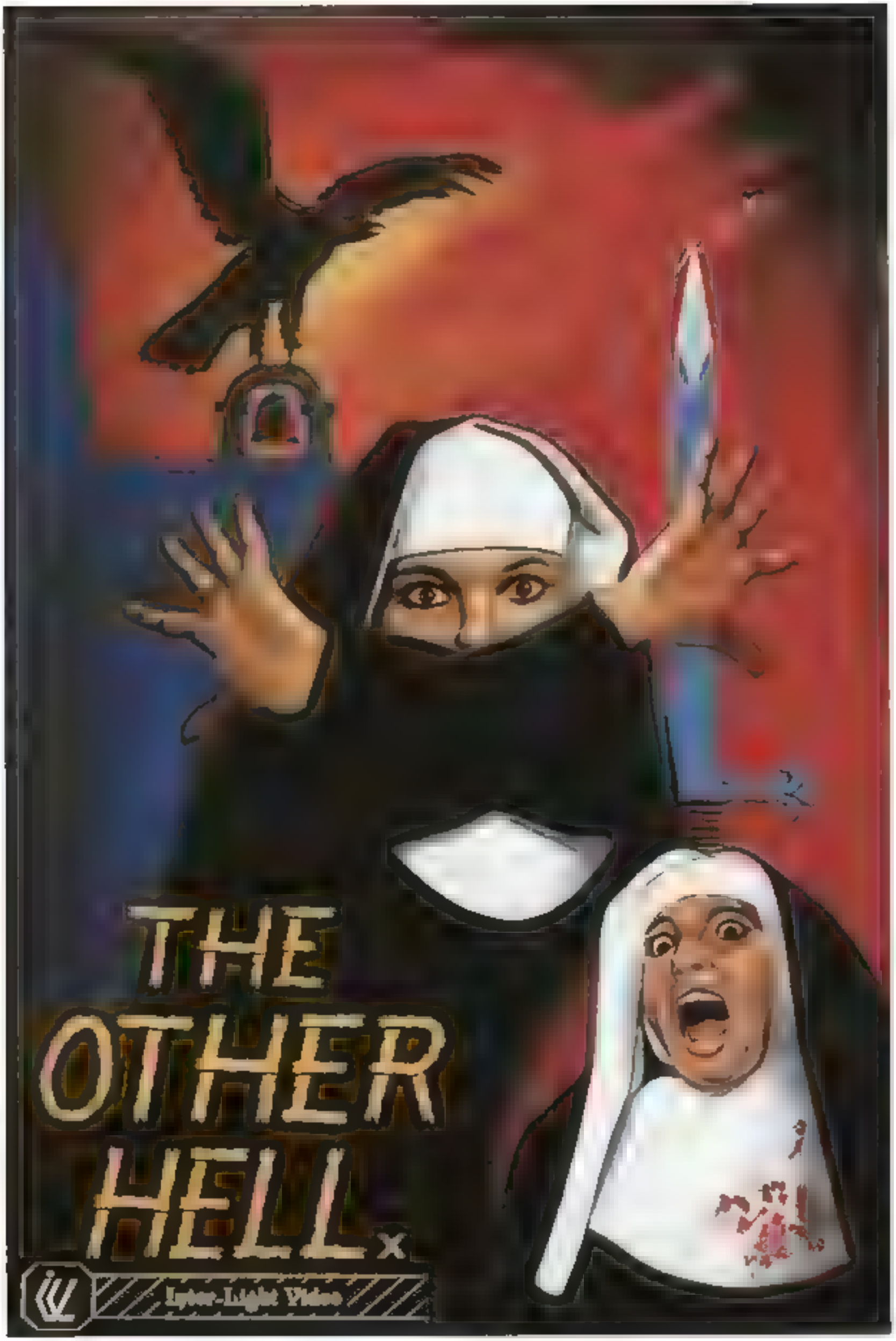
Nightmare City (Vid[illegible] Tape Center, March 1982)

Nightmare Maker (Atlantis Video Productions, April 1983)

Nightmares in a Damaged Brain (LJ Productions, 20 May 1982)


AN ARM UNDEAD
OASIS OF THE
ZOMBIES
Starring
Manuel Gelin, France Jordin,
Jeff Montgomery & Myriam Landon
FILMLAND
Directed by A.M. Frank
Running time 82 minutes approx
This video film should not be rented to or viewed by persons under 18 years of age

Oasis of Zombies (Filmland 15 February 1983)



The Other Hell (Inter-Light, February 1983)

The [illegible]r Side of Madness (Worldwide, July 1983)

Panic (Video Independent Productions, July 1984)

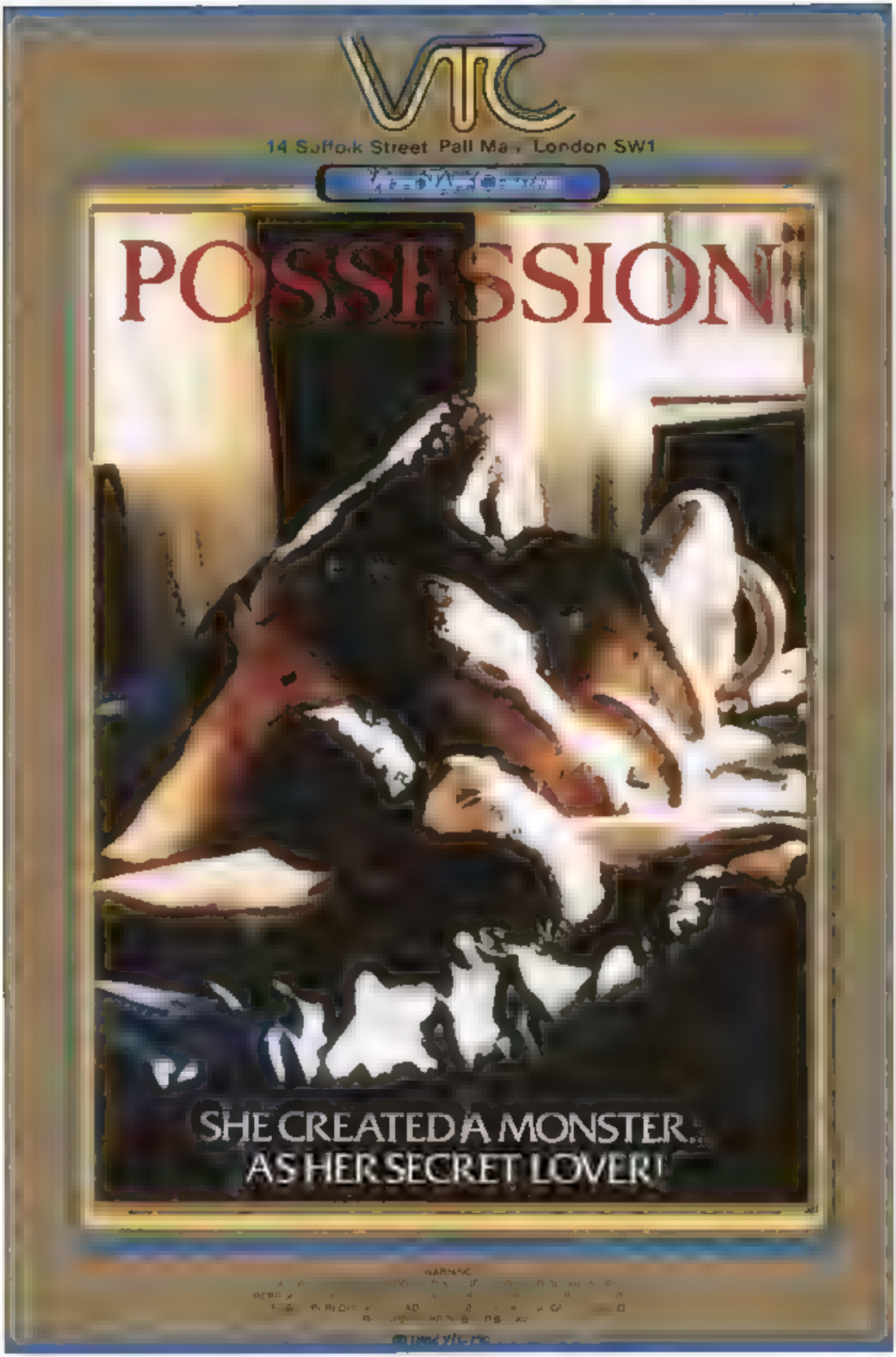
Pigs (Ivan Film Services, November 1982)

OUT IN THE WOODS...
A MANIAC STALKS THE NIGHT!

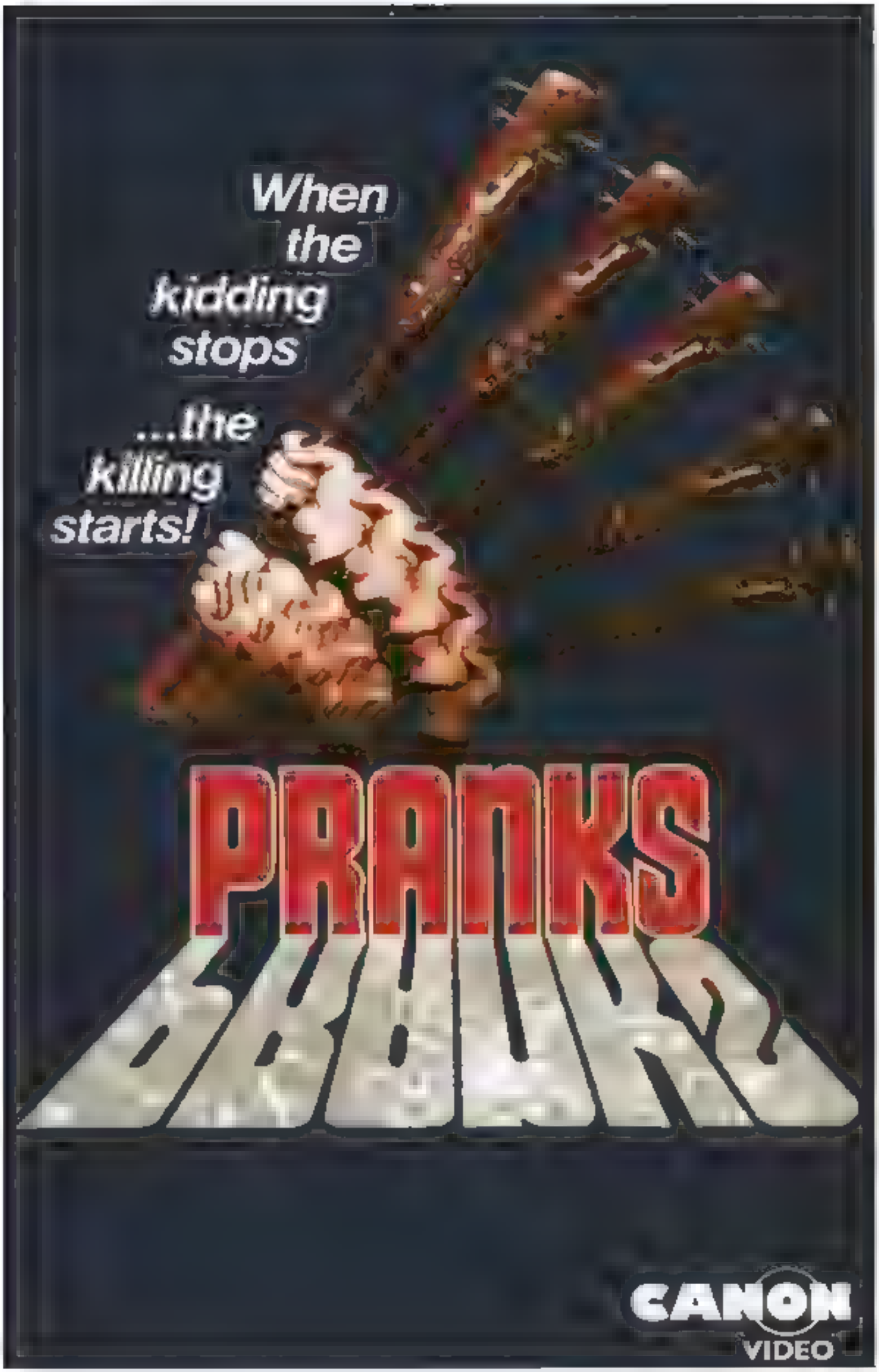
POOR WHITE TRASH

HORROR — COLOUR
A-A 0481

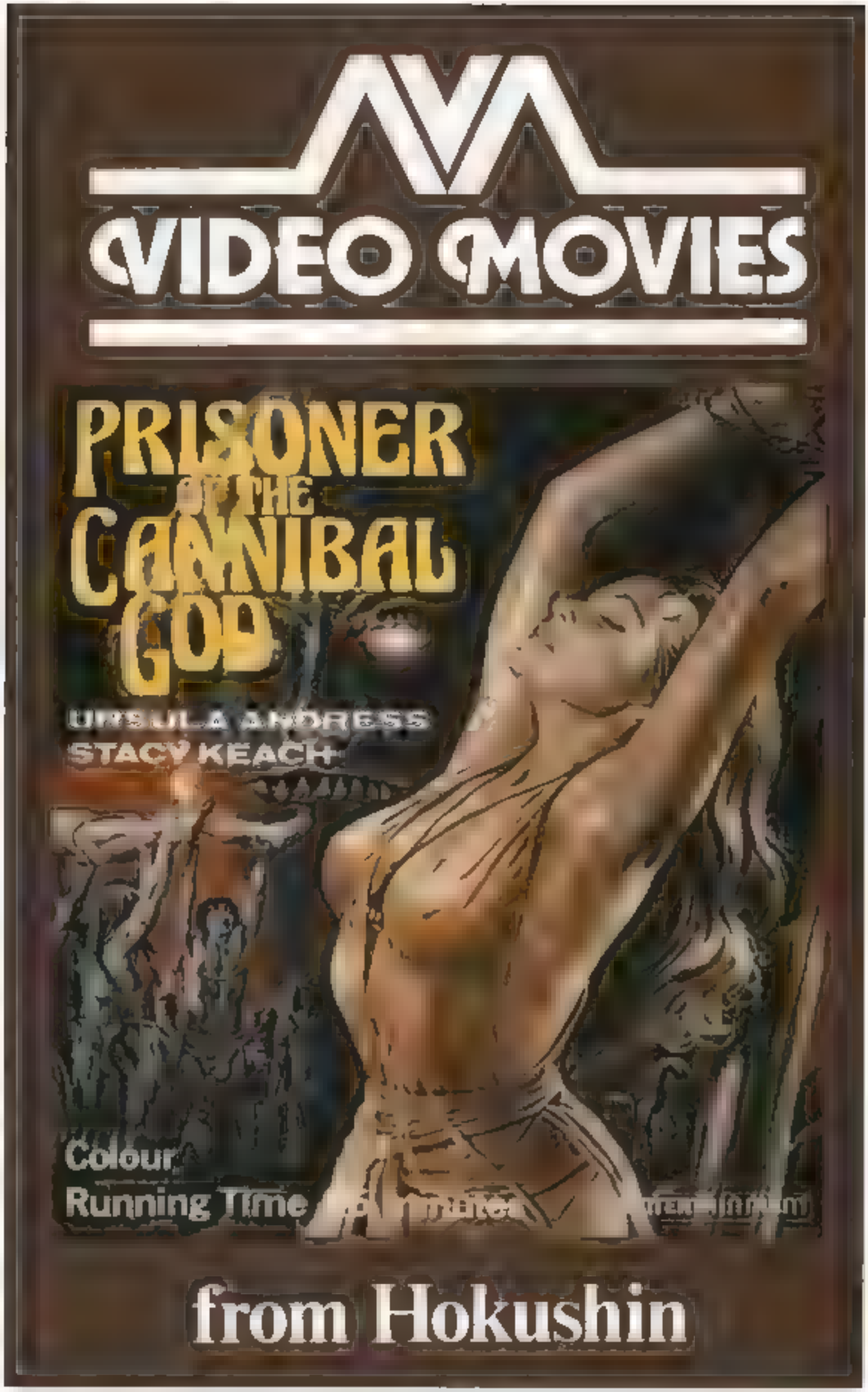
Poor White Trash (Intervision, June 1983)



Possession (Video Tape Center September 1982)



Pranks (Canon, 10 June 1982)



Prisoner of the Cannibal God (Hokushin, 1981)

Rana — **The Creature from Shadow Lake** (Mountain, 10 March 1983)

Rings of Fear (Video Film Promotions, February 1983)

Rituals (Cinehollywood, November 1981)

Satan War (Surrey 1983)

Satan's Altar (Mr. Video, 1985)

Satan's Blade (Mogul, 29 January 1984)

Satan's Slave (Brent Walker, September 1982)

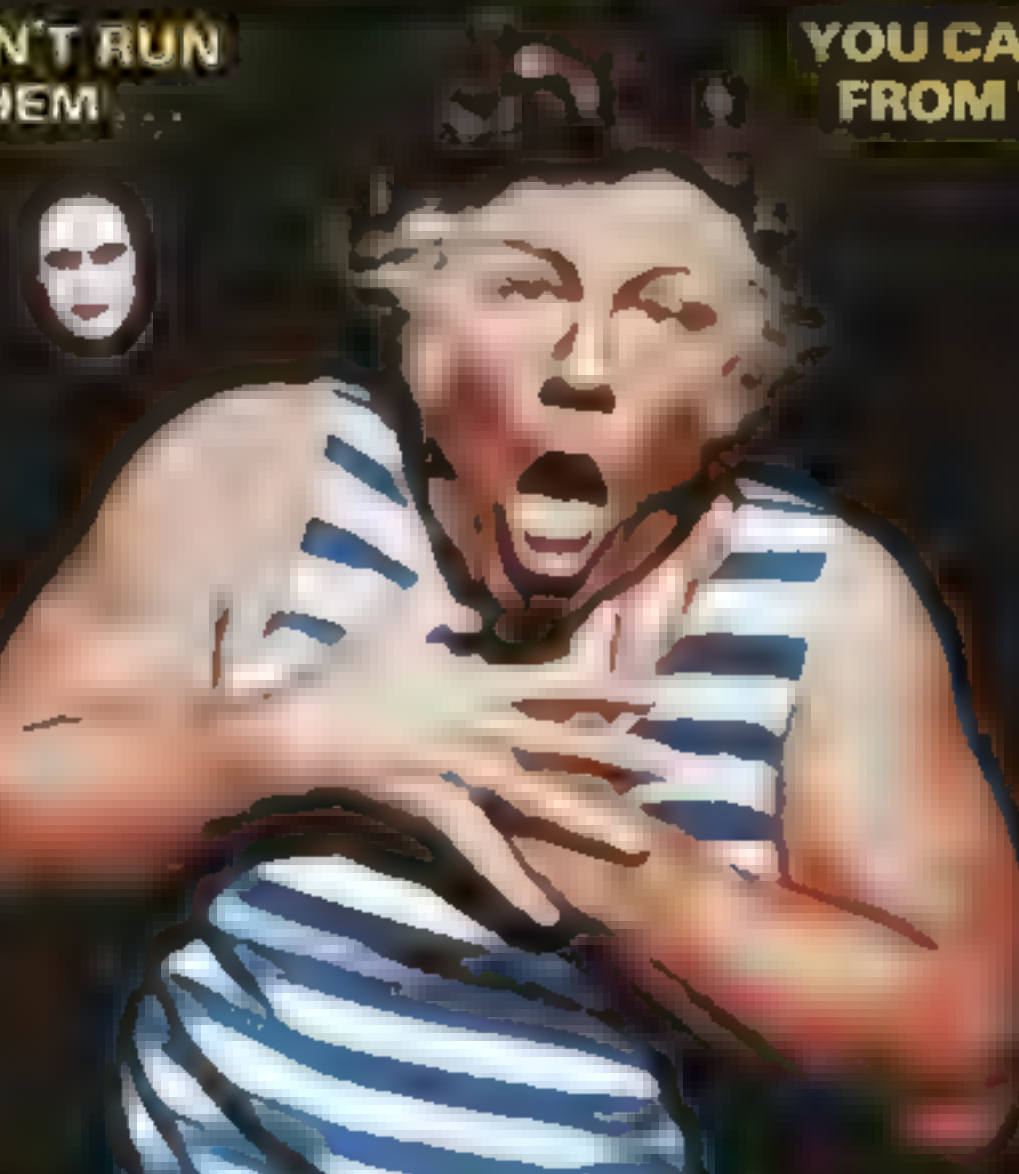
Savage Intruder (VIPCO November 1982)

Savage Terror (Go 1982)

SEIZURE!

YOU CAN'T RUN FROM THEM . . .

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THEM . . .



THE EXECUTIONER

THE [illegible]

THE QUEEN OF EVIL

Starring JONATHAN FRIED, MARTINE BESWICK, JOE SIROLA, CHRISTINA PICKLES, ANNE MEACHAM, ROGER DE KOVEN, TROY DONAHUE and HERVE VILLECHAIZE

Produced by: GARRAD GLENN and JEFFREY KAPELMAN Directed by: OLIVER STONE

RUNNING TIME 96 MINS APPROX

[illegible] VIDEO

Seizure! (Astra, September 1982)

Shock (Vampix [Videomedia], May 1981)

SHRIEK OF THE MUTILATED
College students seeking the Abominable Snowman find a cult of killers on an island of terror
IVER FILM SERVICES
THE PROFESSIONALS AT FINEWOOD
IFS

Shriek of the Mutilated (Iver Film Services, January 1982)

The Slayer (VIPCO, June 1982)

THE ORIGINAL LEGENDARY ATROCITY
SHOT AND BANNED IN NEW YORK

CultVideo Presents A Monarch Films Release

THE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES WHO DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO MAKING THIS FILM WERE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD FROM AGAIN.

Written by A SOCHIN Produced and Directed by T. AMAZZO
Music by RICK HOWARD

UNRATED COLOR

RUNNING TIME 82 MINUTES

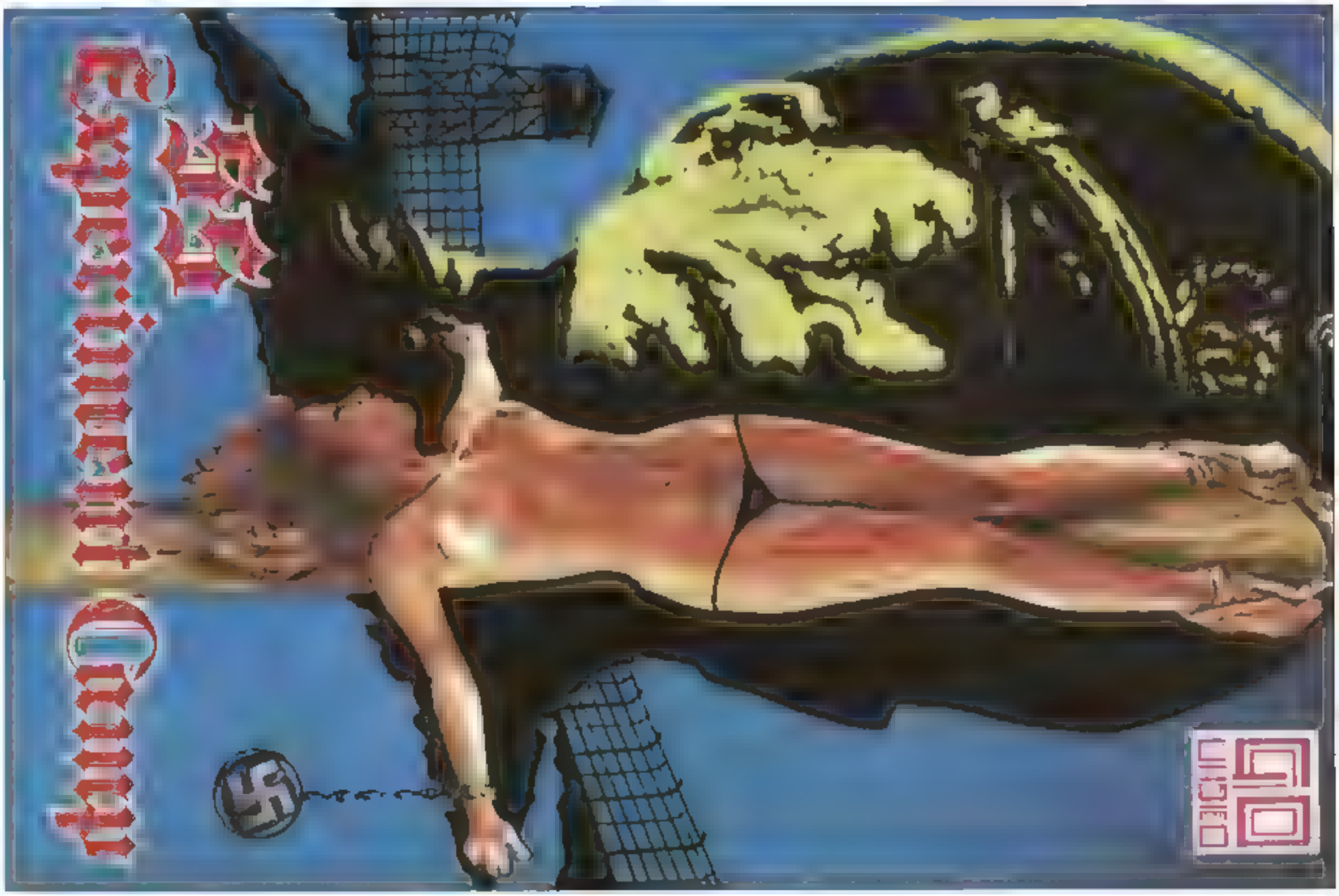
CULTVIDEO

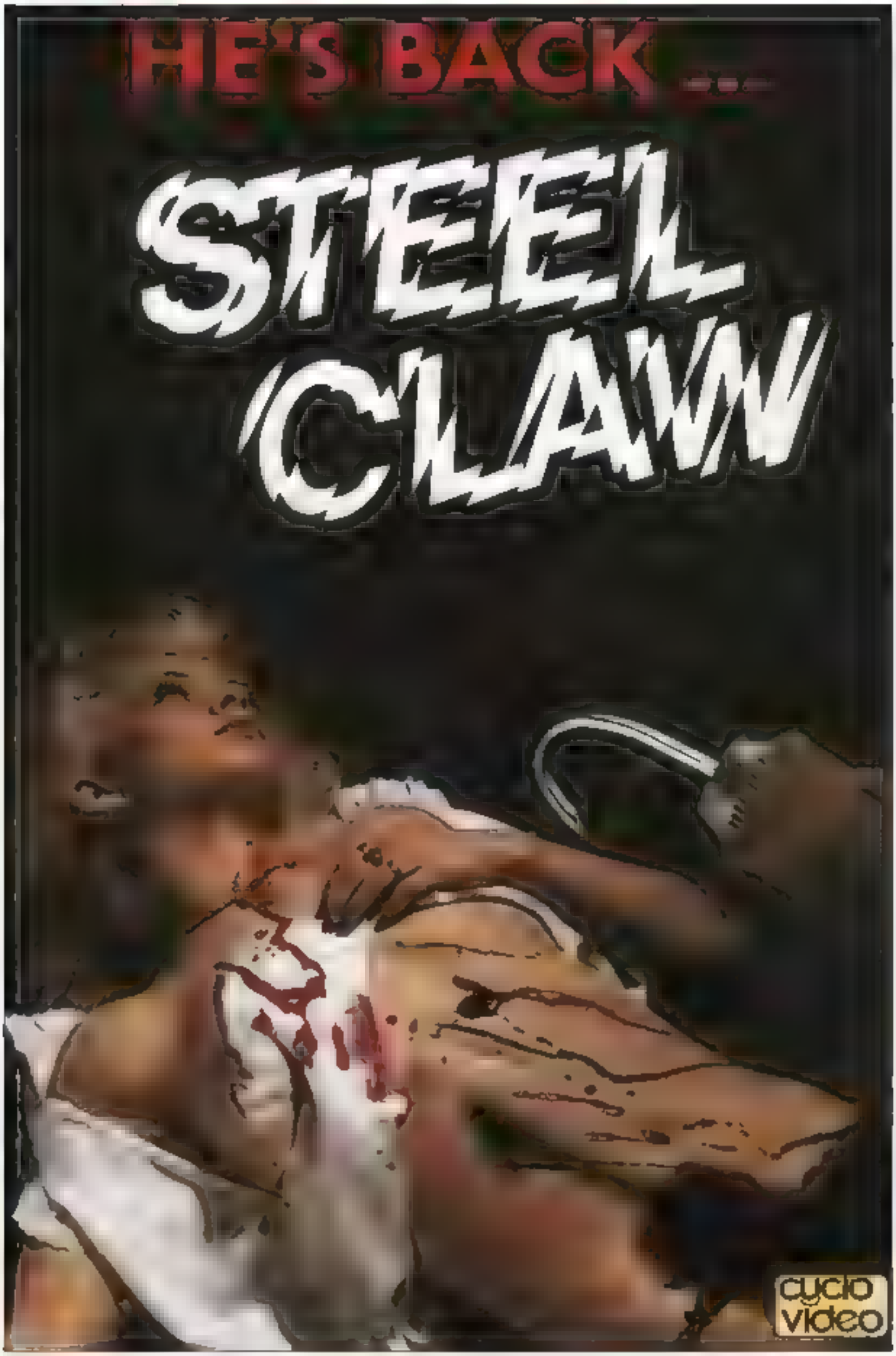
CULTVIDEO DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE U.S. BY

ASTRA VIDEO

Spasmo (Diplomat, November 1982)

$5 Experiment Camp (Go, January 1982)





Steel Claw (Cyclo, 1983)

Strangler of Vienna (Varipix [Videomedia], May 1983)

JOSEPH E. LEVINE PRESENTS, INC.

Enemy of the Faith
Foe to the Human Race
Thief of Life
Inventor of all Obscenities
Satan, why do you stand and resist?

The Tempter

Deliver her from evil.

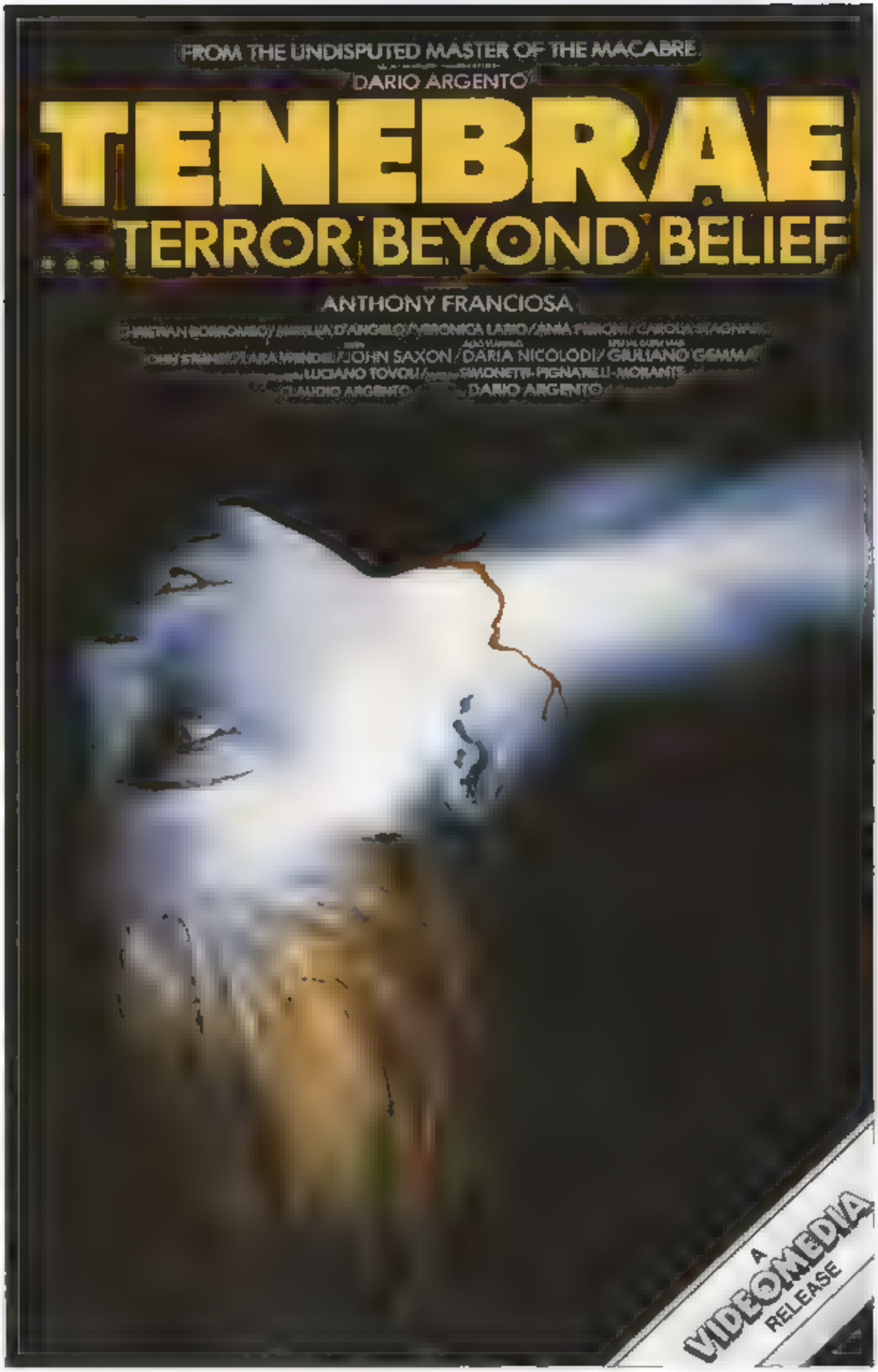
CARLA GRAVINA
MEL FERRER • ARTHUR KENNEDY in
THE TEMPTER

PRODUCED BY EDMONDO AMATI
DIRECTED BY ALBERTO DE MARTINO

Intervision
THE FIRST NAME IN VIDEO
THE LAST WORD IN ENTERTAINMENT

TERROR SUSPENSE — COLOUR
A-A 0392

The Tempter (Intervision, July 1982)



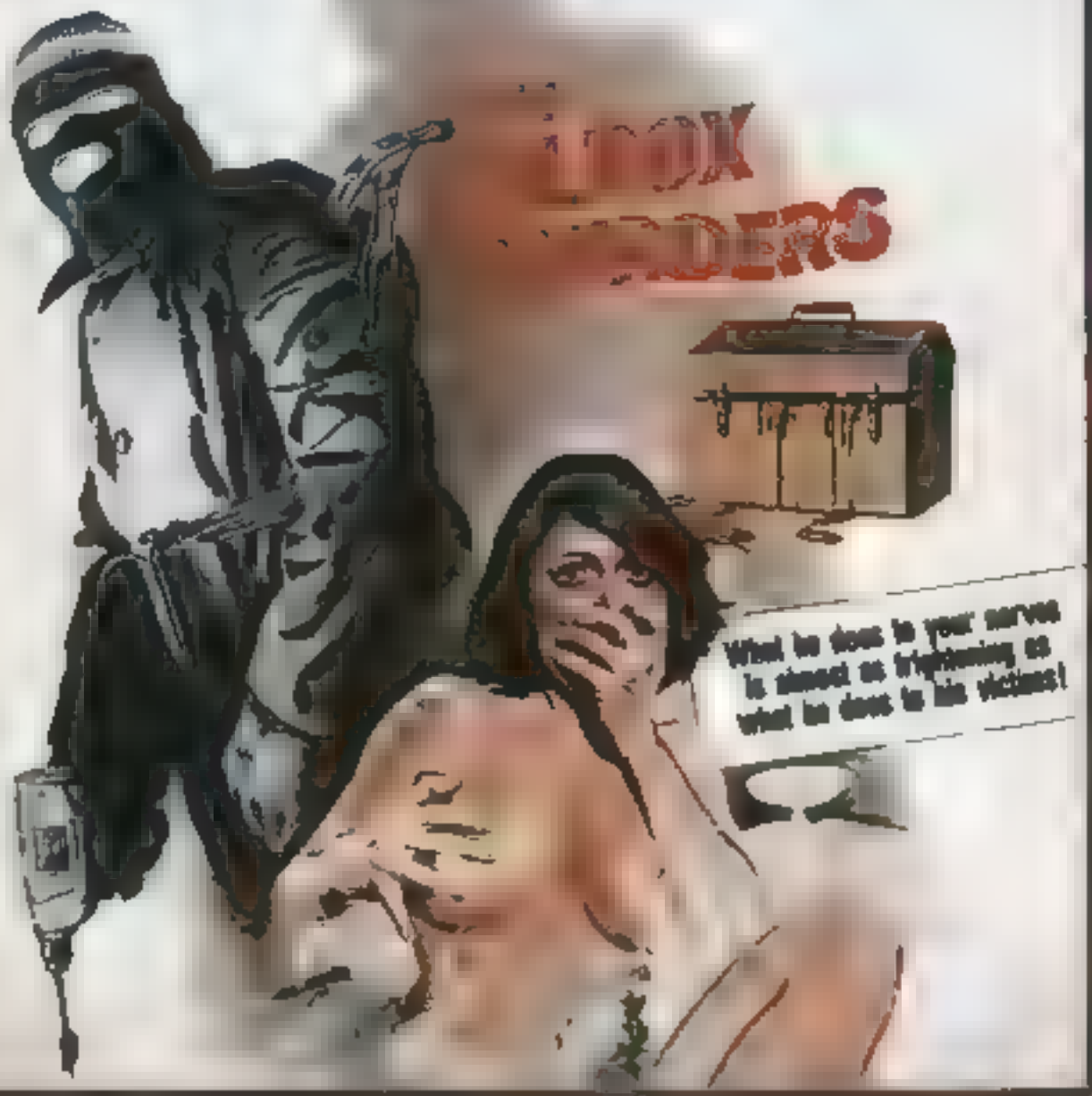
Tenebrae (Videomedia, 29 June 1983)

Terror Eyes (Guild, February 1983)

The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (Ivor Film Services, 18 December 1981)

AVA VIDEO MOVIES

BIT BY BIT...BY BIT HE CARVED A NIGHTMARE!



from Hokushin

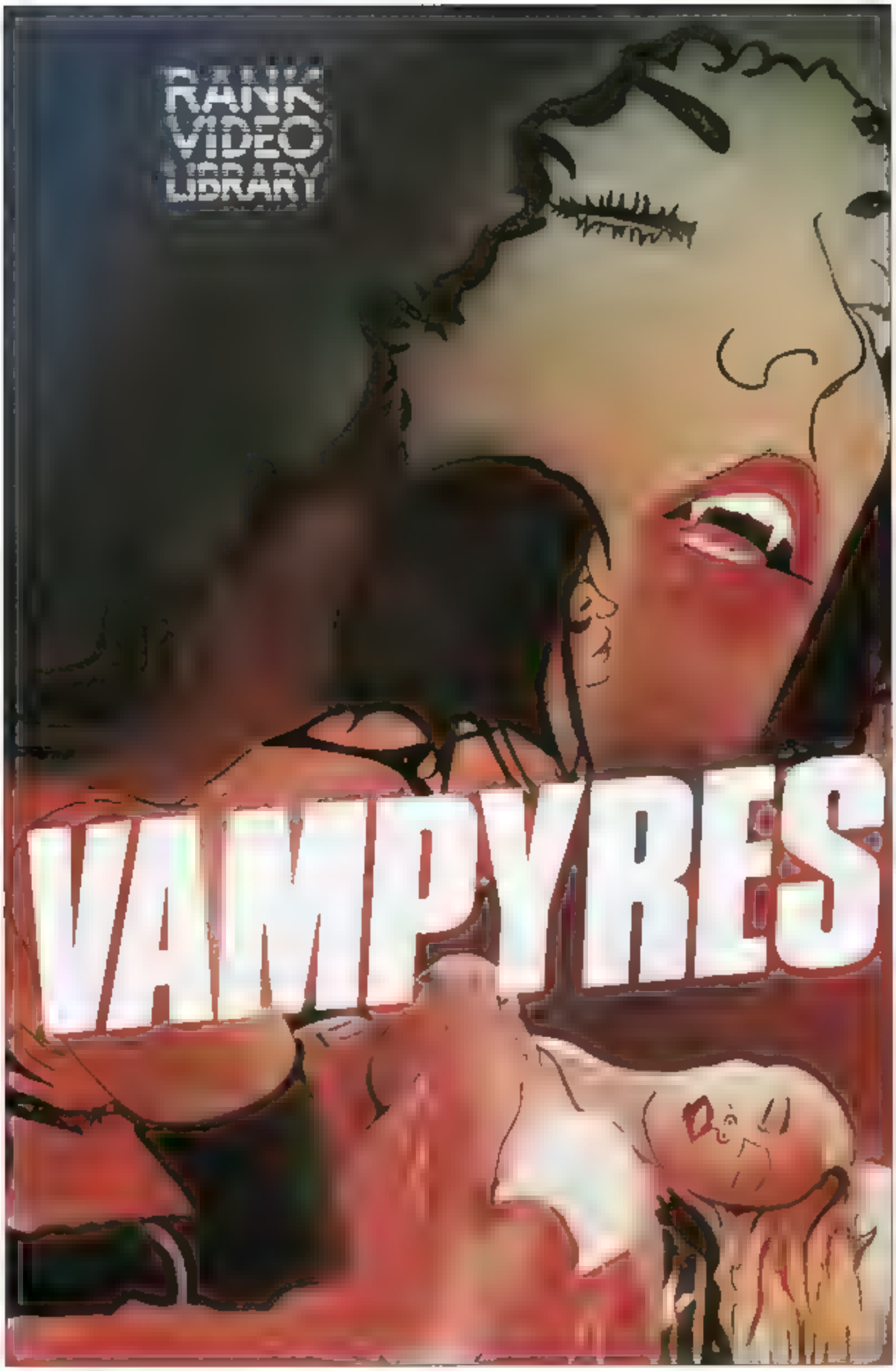
The Toolbox Murders (Hokushin, November 1981)

Tonia (Iver Film Services, 5 November 1981)

Track of the Moonbeast (Video Form, 14 May 1982)

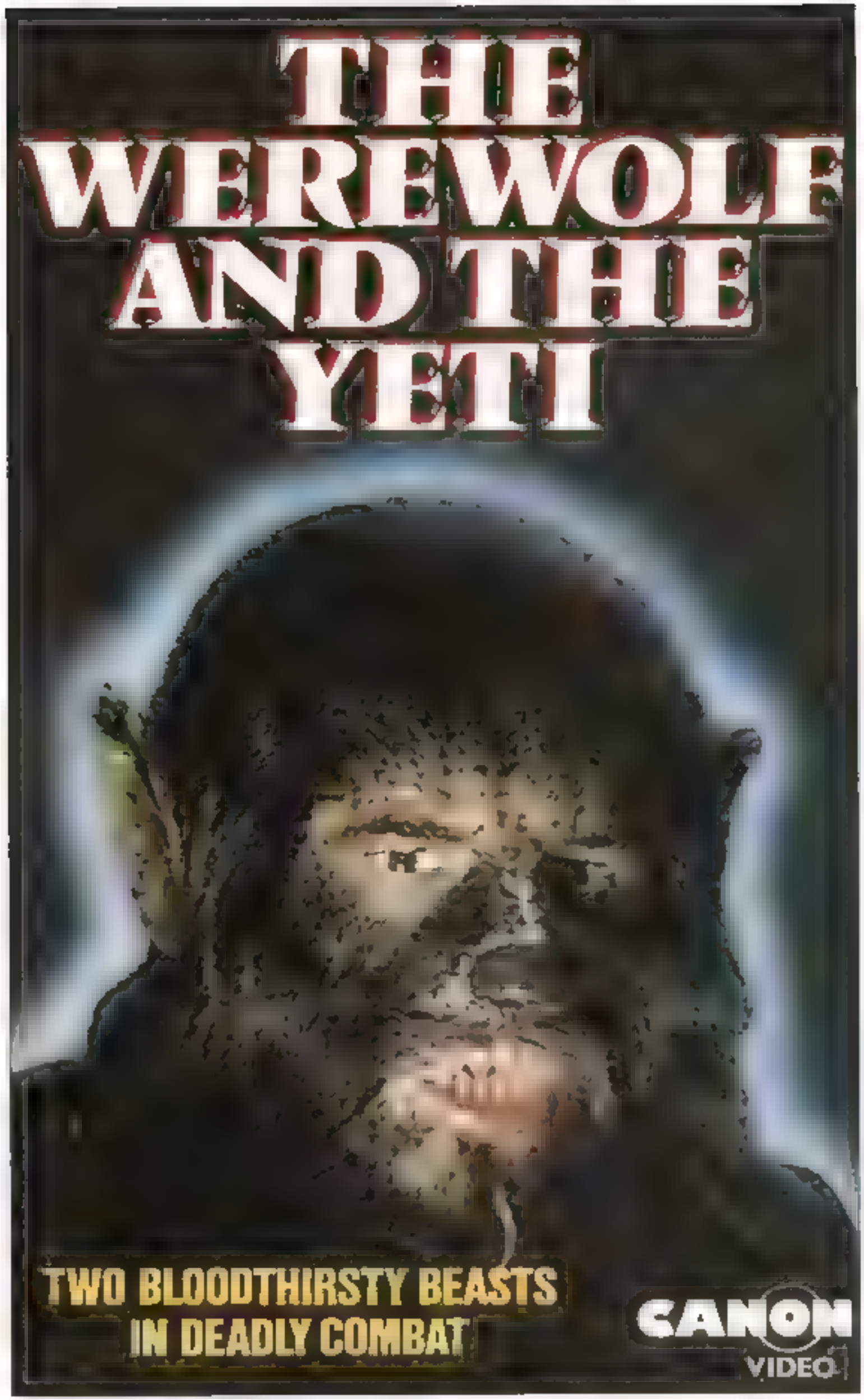
Trapped (Video Film Organisation, September 1982)

Vampire Happening (DVS, May 1983)



Vampyres (Rank, September 1981)

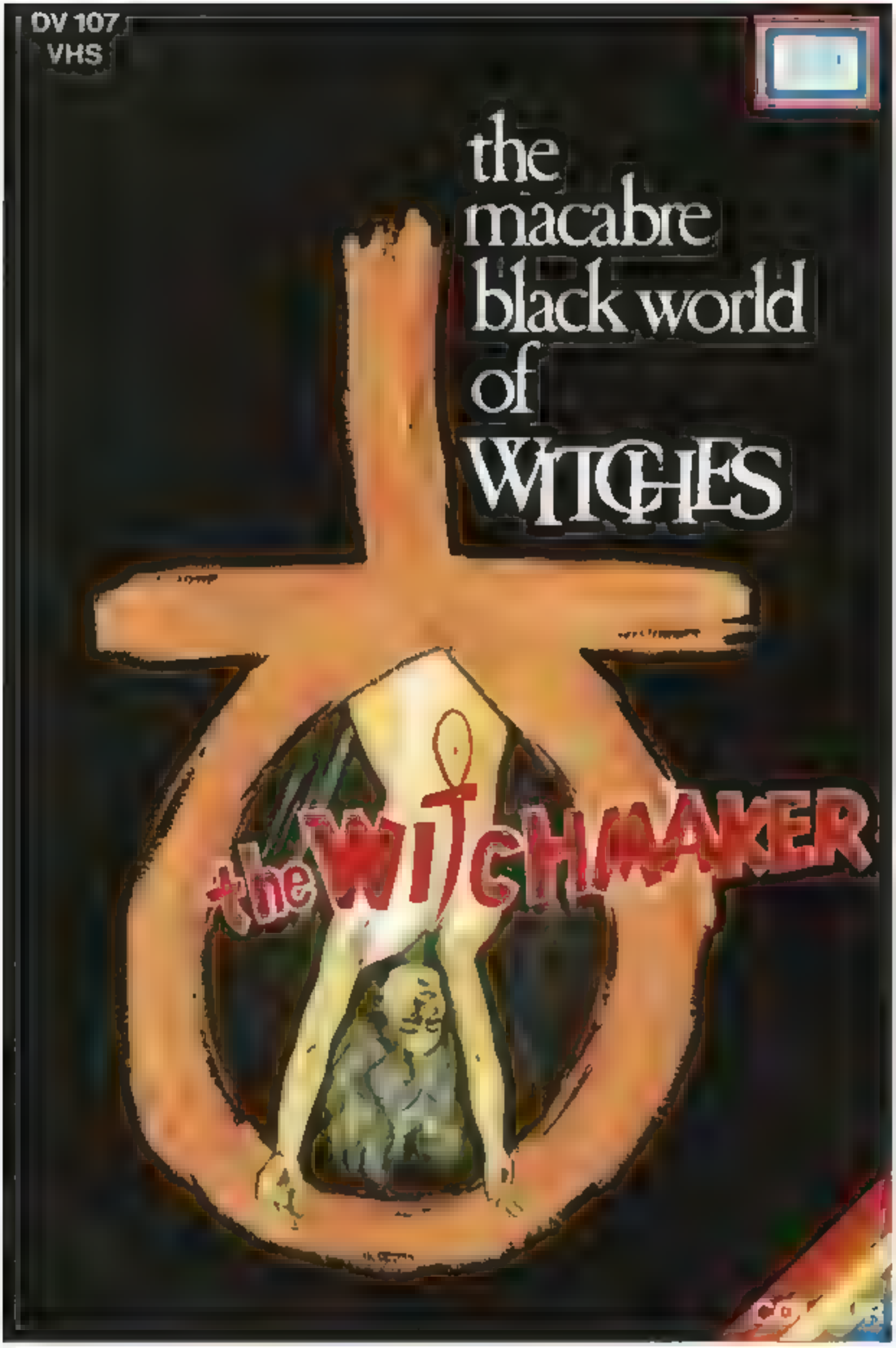
Violation of the Bitch (Hokushin, November 1981)



The Werewolf and the Yeti (Canon, October 1982)

Werewolf Woman (Cockney Rebels Specials, 3 June 1983)

Werewolves on Wheels (Video Unlimited, May 1981)



The Witchmaker (Deborah, 1979)

When the Creeping Dead devour the living flesh!

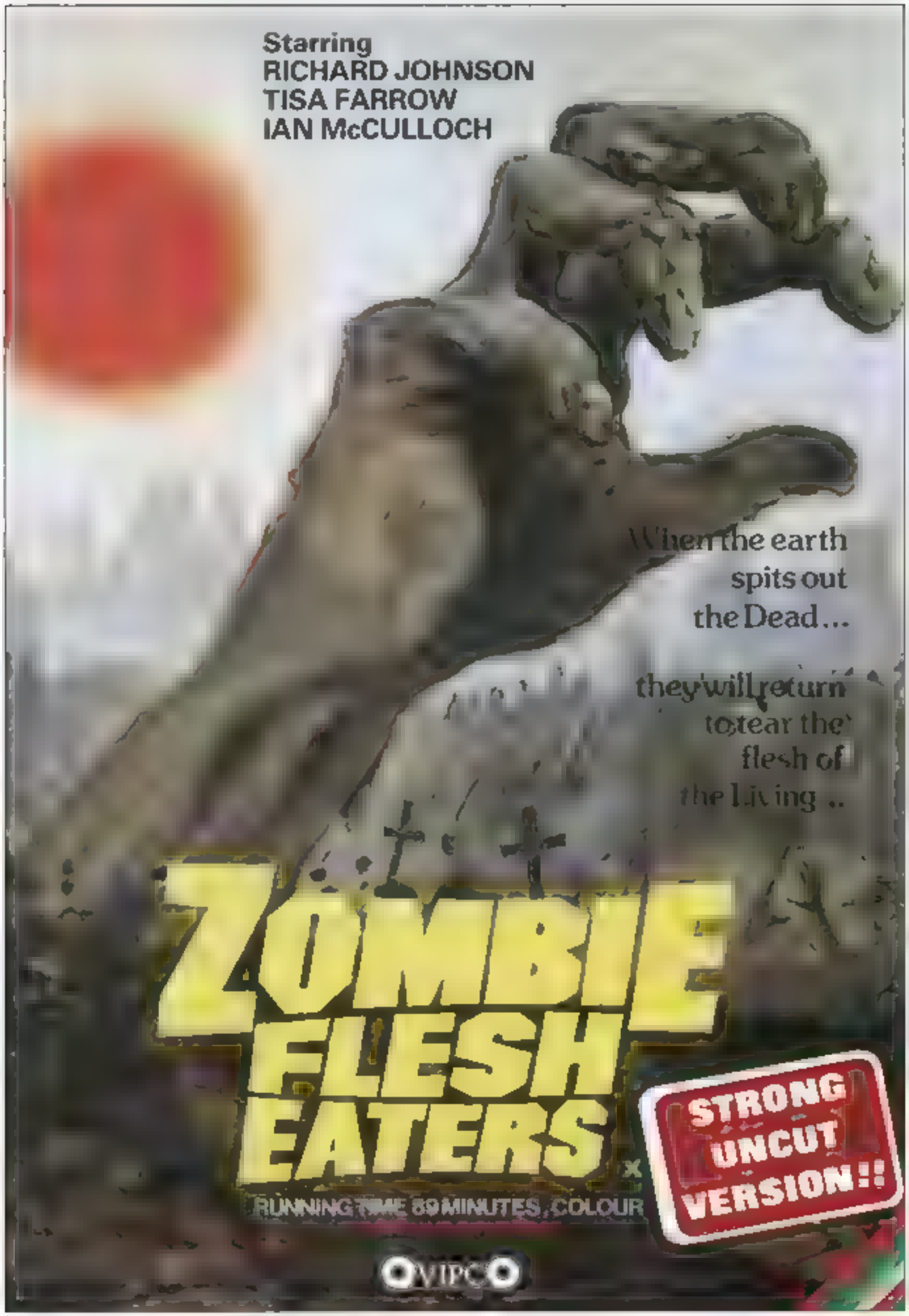
ZOMBIE CREEPING FLESH

Starring:
Magrit Evelyn Newton, Frank Garfield, Robert O'Neil and Selan Karay

Directed by Vincent Dawn Produced by Sergio Cortona

WARNING: X Certificate – Not to be rented or sold to persons under 18

Zombie Creeping Flesh (Merlin, October 1982)



Zombie Flesh Eaters (VIPCO November 1981)

MODERN FILMS
VIDEO

ZOMBIES LAKE

WITH
HOWARD VERNON • PIERRE ESCOURROU
ANOUCHKA - ANTHONY MAYANS
NADINE PASCALE AND BURT ALTMAN

80 minutes Colour

V.H.S.

Zombies Lake (Modern Films, October 1981)

THE VIDEO NASTIES

The core of this book, quite naturally consists of the so-called 'video nasties' the horror videos offered for hire or sale in the UK during the early 1980s that were simply considered to be beyond the limits of acceptability according to the law of the land Although the British Board of Film Censors (BBFC) had been classifying and cutting films intended for theatrical exhibition since 1922, they had no control whatsoever over the contents of videograms during the format's formative years. As a result of this loophole the British public was being offered many films that had been cut banned or otherwise unseen in the country's cinemas

Initially there was little official opposition. Once the medium started to grow in popularity however the striking outrageous packaging utilised by the young companies trading in horror videos started to receive increasingly wide exposure. When a series of high-profile advertising campaigns for shocking videos like **The Driller Killer** **SS Experiment Camp** and **Cannibal Holocaust** were published in high street video consumer magazines, the authorities were pushed into action by Britain's crusading journalists, ever eager for scandalous, eye-catching headline stories

Although it was *The Daily Mail* that would take the issue to heart, becoming the standard bearer for the pro-censorship lobby, it was actually *The Sunday Times* that first made an issue of the subject. In June 1982 the paper ran a story expressing concern about the availability of three particularly lurid exploitation movies on British video **SS Experiment Camp**, **The Driller Killer** and **I Spit on Your Grave**. As a direct result of this report, Scotland Yard sent samples of these tapes to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to see if they were suitable for prosecution

Just a few days later on the 9th of June 1982 The Obscene Publications Squad raided the offices of VIPCO, the company responsible for issuing **The Driller Killer** Up until this point the squad's attention had been entirely focused on retailers, and pornography rather than horror was the object of their searches. The officers took away 300 copies of the suspect video, and later that same week they also visited Astra's premises, from where they removed approximately the same number of **I Spit on Your Grave** tapes Go Video were the next to be visited, and they were forced to surrender all stock of **SS Experiment Camp** found by the officers on site that day

The British Video Association (BVA), a trade organisation that had been established in 1980 to represent the interests of publishers and rights owners of pre-recorded home entertainment on video, quickly recognised that they had a problem to deal with. In June 1982 the BVA issued a statement to the effect that it wanted to "introduce new safeguards to protect members of the public from inadvertantly buying or renting videograms which might be grossly offensive to some adults or seriously disturbing to children." However, beyond this rather vague statement of intent, no concrete action was forthcoming from the BVA at this time

By September 1982 a further four titles had been sent to the DPP **Death Trap**, **Cannibal Holocaust**, **Savage Terror** and **Macabre**, and on the 20th of August, yet another video company was raided. This time it was Video Programme Distributors Ltd. (VPD) who were targeted, and copies of **Last House on the Left**, **Demented** and **I Drink Your Blood** (which had still not even been released at the time of the police action!) were all removed for examination by the authorities

The following month the BVA again made an official statement, this time advising dealers to be careful about which titles they were stocking specifically warning them to avoid **The Driller Killer** and **I Spit on Your Grave**

The same month saw the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) joining in the debate, emotively calling for action to "Protect the Children from Video Horrors" The police were only too happy to oblige, and following several months of raids, confiscations and threats the DPP was finally ready to present their case in a court of law. As a result the first ever successful prosecutions of horror videos in the UK took place on the 31st of August 1982 Destruction orders were placed on **The Driller Killer** and **Death Trap**, as explained in this report, found in the November 1982 issue of *Video Viewer*

"In a test case brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions to establish whether 'nasties' can be legally classified as obscene, almost 600 copies of ***Death Trap*** *and* ***The Driller Killer*** *were ordered to be forfeited at Willesden Magistrates Court in North London*

VIPCO, who are the distributors of both the tapes, were originally to have been prosecuted under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act, which involves a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment, Section Three however under which the action was eventually brought, involves only a destruction order by magistrates for the tapes. Although the master tapes of both films were also forfeited, the thousands of copies already sold to private individuals will not be affected by the order

The Willesden magistrates made their decision to agree to the DPP's application for forfeiture after only twenty minutes and without having seen either film. They based their decision on the cassette covers and the description of the films contents given by Mr. Stephen Wooler, who was acting for the DPP

Mary Whitehouse, president of the NVLA (National Viewers' and Listeners' Association), who reported the tapes to the police, described the

case as 'a farce' She added 'The DPP should have gone the whole way and prosecuted these people under Section Two. That way we would have been able to see whether or not the present legislation is adequate.'

Earlier this year the DPP seized copies of ***SS Experiment Camp*** *and* ***Cannibal Holocaust*** *from Go Video, intending to prosecute under Section Two of the Act. However, when Go Video agreed to stop distributing the tapes and to have all outstanding copies destroyed, the action was abandoned Two further Go Video titles - **Savage Terror** and **Macabre** - which were due for prosecution under Section Three. have been returned to the company by the police on the condition that no further copies be produced and that the tapes are not promoted in any way. And Astra's **I Spit on Your Grave**, which was to have faced proceedings under Section Two, will be involved in a Section Three case only."*

The Obscene Publicabons Act 1959 defines obscenity as that which may 'tend to deprave and corrupt' Section Two carries a criminal penalty, but Section Three (introduced in a 1964 amendment) enables the destruction of material considered to be obscene without a jury trial. The court action reported above highlights the legal confusion at the time surrounding the prosecution of tape distributors by the Director of Public Prosecutions. The action against Astra Video regarding **I Spit on Your Grave** was a case in point, as Section Two papers were actually signed by the operational head of the Obscene Publications Branch at Scotland Yard. The DPP however claimed that there had been a breakdown of communications between themselves and the police and that they had always intended to bring the action under Section Three of the Act. As a result of the case, Astra was ordered to forfeit 234 copies of **I Spit on Your Grave** by Croydon Magistrates

Mary Whitehouse who had made her dissatisfaction with the Willesden case very clear described the outcome of the Croydon case as a public scandal once again demanding clarification: "Until we have a prosecution under Section Two before a jury, we shall not know whether or not obscene publications legislation is effective enough to control these video nasties."

Stephen Wooler acting for the DPP for the second case in a row, told the court that the action had been restricted to Section Three because Astra was a legitimate video company and not specifically involved in the pornography business. He assured the court that most future actions would be brought under Section Two of the Act (incidentally, at the time of writing Wooler is employed as Chief Inspector for the Crown Prosecution Service)

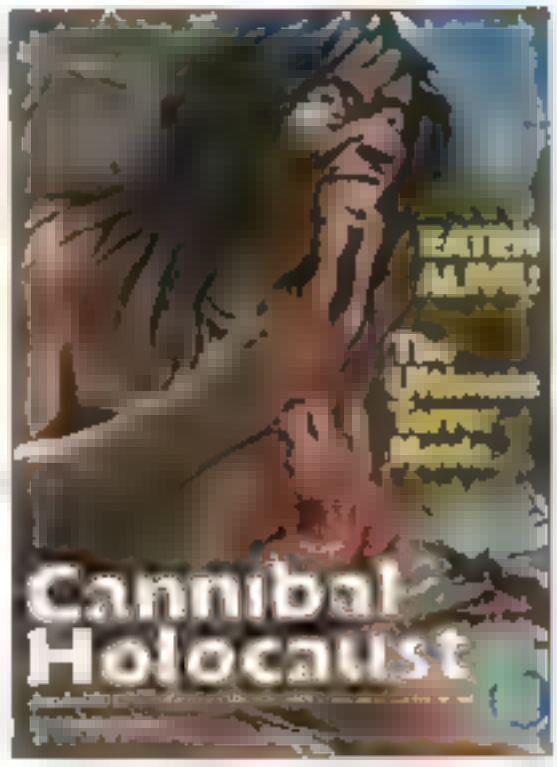
As 1982 drew to a close confusion continued to reign throught the industry with the bizarre and farcical case of video trade wholesalers Gold's, and their battles with the Metropolitan Police force being particularly pertinent The following report was somewhat belatedly published in the February 1983 issue of *Video Viewer*

"When the wholesalers S. Gold and Sons were raided, the police confiscated 500 cassettes on grounds of obscenity. Unlike many other traders in the same position, Gold's had the money, muscle and determination to fight. They did, and won in the cases of 497 out of the 500. A destruction order was granted on only three. Go Video's ***The Demons****, Hokushin's* ***Love Me Deadly*** *and TCX's* ***Below the Belt****. The moral: fight both the blue-noses and boys in blue*

Ah, but suddenly, on November 5 officers from the Obscene Publicabons Squad once more swooped on S. Gold and Sons, again carting off 450 cassettes, some of them the very ones that had just been returned. 'The whole situation is getting very silly,' said Barrie Gold afterwards. 'The police don't seem to know what they are doing.'"

Never were truer words spoken as the trade press reported case after case of video stores being raided, resulting in a seemingly random selection of tapes being seized - in fact just about every horror film issued was picked up at one time or another and subjected to examination

Recognising that the uncertainty regarding the 'nasties' was starting to seriously hurt the trade, the BVA finally tried to take action independently of the authorities to 'clean up the industry from within. With this and in mind they got together with the BBFC during February 1983 to arrange a Working Party report, which was given six weeks to report back with findings. The main aim was to establish a workable means of applying an age symbols system to videos, as was already established at the time for the cinema. In the event however it took another two and a half years before an effective formal system was in place when the process of fully implementing the Video Recordings Act started on the 1st of September 1985



The list

TODAY, for the first time, Video Business can publish this list of 28 videos which have been branded as obscene. They all led to guilty verdicts in Portsmouth Crown Court – either when dealers admitted they were obscene, or juries found them obscene

Throughout Britain, video dealers have been crying out for these titles, *but*, in future, cannot stock according to the law. But this list is still not the complete answer. It provides a guideline for obscenity. As the law stands, dealers would almost certainly be prosecuted fo these titles, *but*, in future, any jury could find any one of them not obscene.

Last House On The Left
I Spit On Your Grave
Cannibal Terror
Cannibal Holocaust
Cannibal Ferox
Driller Killer
China Cat – Little Angel Puss
Hard Soap
In The Realm Of The Senses
Skin Tight
Wham Bam Thank You Spaceman
Below The Belt
Babyface
Snuff
Pranks
Bloody Moon
Death Trap
The Girls Of Godiva High
The Devil In Miss Jones
Expensive Tastes
Swedish Erotica
Joint Venture
Deep Throat
Pink Flamingo
Barbara Broadcast
The Devil Inside Her
Dungeon Of Pain
Little Me And Myra Strange-love

The intervening 30 months were pure chaos for the industry, as the authorities tried to control the ever-expanding trade in horror videos by continuing to prosecute videos almost at random As more and more successful prosecutions were brought against the strongest of the already well-established 'video nasties' the rest of the video industry grew nervous and started to think of ways to safeguard themselves from the possibility of being caught up in legal action through guilt by association. Even adult video company TCX, who were responsible for issuing a great selection of adult films (such as the Alex De Renzy epics **Pretty Peaches** and **Babyface**) in self-censored but still fairly explicit versions sought to distance themselves from the horror video publishers. The company placed a notice in the 10th of March 1983 edition of *Video Trade Weekly* stating that they would only consider compensating stores that had TCX stock seized from their premises "providing they do not or have not stocked the following tapes: **The Driller Killer, I Spit on Your Grave, SS Experiment Camp, Death Trap, Cannibal Holocaust, Snuff**."

A trade organisation calling itself The Association of Film Dealers also got in on the act, by compiling their own list of 30 forbidden titles They offered members insurance to help cover legal expenses as part of a £30 per year subscription fee, the insurance being valid only if members did not stock any of the titles on their list

In a response to increasingly desperate calls from the video companies and high street traders alike for clarification about which video cassettes might be considered obscene, the DPP finally made a definitive statement on the subject.

July 1983 saw the publication of the very first official DPP 'video nasties' list It was an accepted fact of law during the 1980s that hardcore pornography was in breach of the terms of the Obscene Publications Act, so the list concentrated solely on horror movies because the trade was in need of specific guidance for this type of video The exact definition used by the DPP when compiling their lists was that the films they had identified were considered as being suitable for prosecution under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act. The first list consisted of the following titles. **Blood Feast, Bloody Moon, Cannibal Ferox** (uncut version), **Cannibal Holocaust, Cannibal Terror, Death Trap, Don't Go In the House. The Driller Killer Faces of Death, Human Experiments. I Spit on Your Grave. The Last House on the Left, Night Train Murders Nightmares in a Damaged Brain Pranks, Snuff** and **SS Experiment Camp**. Over the course of the next 30 months the list would be constantly revised with titles being added or deleted as and when seizures were made and prosecutions either succeeded or failed Though the system was at least an attempt to clarify the legal situation, it was stressed at all times that even the 'official' DPP list was for guidance purposes only. General wisdom at the time was that if a dealer wanted to avoid the possibility of prosecution they would be better off not offering their customers horror videos at all. The problem in practical terms was of course that the horror titles were amongst the most profitable on the market

The glacial pace of the legal process only served to further compound the situation, with cases often taking a year or more before ending up in court. What's more, a case during October 1983 in Middlesbrough clearly demonstrated that the DPP's list could only be used as a vague guideline for protection against legal proceedings, particularly when, as in this case, a Section Three (destruction) order was applied for rather than the more serious Section Two charge. The Middlesbrough proceedings resulted in a Destruction Order being imposed on 25 titles, including **Shogun Assassin, Street Killers**, and **The Mad Foxes**, none of which had ever been cited on an official DPP list

There is also plenty of evidence that, for whatever reason, the DPP lists were not necessarily getting the exposure they needed, and that the trade was indeed demanding. Take for example the list of 28 titles reproduced on the left, as originally published in the 5th of December 1983 edition of *Video Business*. Contrary to the claims of this article, it was far from being the first published list, but merely a recounting of an individual guilty verdict on 'obscene' tapes as handed down by one magistrate in one isolated court of law. As can be seen, this particular case mostly involved pornographic videos, and a smattering of transgressive cult movies such as **In the Realm of the Senses** and **Pink Flamingos** that were never formally identified by the DPP as being suitable for Section Two prosecution

During this time of great confusion both Houses of Parliament started to

really get in on the act, with the Lords having some particularly memorable things to say for themselves. as reported in *Video Business*

"Video nasties are the product of diseased minds Lord Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, told a press conference in London last week. 'I would put these who knowingly pedal video nasties with those who pedal drugs said an uncompromising Coggan.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Group Video Enquiry, Lord Nugent of Guildford - who is to sponsor Bright's Bill in the Lords - was less adamant although he did describe nasties as being 'absolute mindless filth with no value of any kind' "

Whilst the Lords carried on their ages-old tradition of impotently mouthing off a private members bill that had been sponsored by the backbench MP Graham Bright was being forced through the House of Commons. In addition to having the avowed aim of clearing 'filth' away from the nation's video shop shelves once and for all. the Video Recordings Act was designed above all else to remove any room for doubt with n the trade. With clear guidelines laid down in law, and compulsory pre-release censorship of all video recordings intended sale or hire in Britain. retailers would at least be able to know for sure where they stood with regard to the laws of the land. Before that was possible however. the hellish situation was further exacerbated by what must go down in history as one of the most unhelpful statements by a Government minister in British history, as reported in the 12th of December 1983 issue of *Video Business*. The following maddening report was filed under the comical headline 'Home Office nasty secret

"A Government Minister has revealed that there are guidelines as to what constitutes a 'nasty' but that it is a secret

David Mellor, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office and the man with the watching brief on nasties for the Government, made his astonishing 'non-statement' to leading anti-nasty campaigner Sir Bernard Braine

He revealed that the Director of Public Prosecutions had passed on its guidelines to the British Board of Film Censors - to ensure that it could classify correctly. But that the guidelines had been only general, not specific rules. and were passed on in a 'purely informal' gesture. 'However, I am afraid that were the correspondence (the guidelines) to be made public, considerable confusion would be created. It is not intended as a guarantee that particular works will be immune from prosecution, but to minimise the possibility of differences between the BBFC and the courts.' wrote Mellor

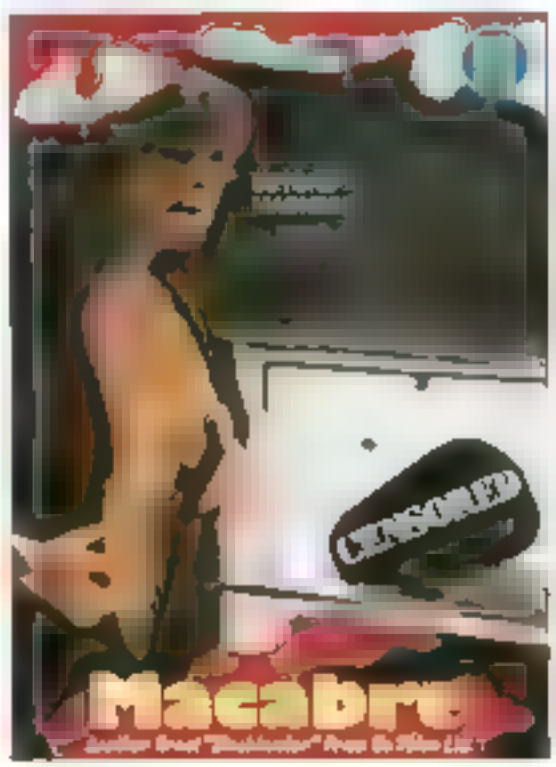
So secret is the guidance that not even MPs working on the Graham Bright Bill have been allowed access to it. Mellor again repeats the line that. 'Different consideration may arise in respect of videos which can be seen in the home and material which is shown in the controlled environment of a cinema. Ignoring the protestation of the industry to the contrary Mellor believes that the 'dealers will be in a more favourable position once Graham Bright's Bill is enacted.'"

It takes quite some time to get law onto the statute books however so in the meantime, some video companies decided that the best thing they could do was to try and help themselves, as highlighted in this story from the 9th of January 1984 issue of *Video Business*

"Following VTC's recent summons for distributing the BBFC-certificated film ***Possession*** *under the Obscene Publications Act, VTC has instigated a new form of in-house censorship on all its titles.*

All films are being viewed by a committee of not less than three directors and films that in the company's view would carry an 18 classification are now bearing on the front sleeve 'Distributor recommendation 18' and on the reverse side, 'Warning, unsuitable for viewing by persons under 18' Commenting on the decision, Guy Collins VTC's joint managing director said 'The effects of the heavily biased media comment, the publicity surrounding Graham Bright's bill and the actions of the DPP have created a situation of complete uncertainty for distributors and dealers alike "

The BBFC had recognised the difficulties facing the industry quite early on, and they were more than willing to help out when asked. Normally, if the Board had issued a cinema certificate to a work, this was subsequently relied upon for any subsequent video release but as shown in the case of **Possession**, along with titles such as **The Evil Dead** **Tenebrae** and **The Toolbox Murders**, this was no safeguard against the threat of potential prosecution



Pre-VRA video certificates were also issued, but only to works not previously seen by the BBFC on film. The following 'nasties' were awarded pre-VRA video certificates (none of which were ever formally confirmed after the VRA came into force): **Cannibal Apocalypse**, '18' certificate after 1 minute 36 seconds of cuts (1983). **Cannibal Ferox**, '18' certificate after 5 minutes 57 seconds of cuts (1982), **Evilspeak**, '18' certificate after 1 minute 21 seconds of cuts (1984); **Madhouse**, '18' certificate after 1 minute 15 seconds of cuts (1983).

As VTC and many other video companies had found out however, in the pre-VRA era a BBFC certificate of any sort was no guarantee of immunity from prosecution. One plainly needed nerves of steel to work in the industry during these difficult years, as the penalties being imposed by the courts were becoming increasingly severe, as highlighted in this 30th of January 1984 report in *Video Business*:

*"In the heaviest sentence so far imposed upon a video dealer under the Obscene Publications Act, 44 year-old Ron May of Video Pleasure Mottingham (London SE9), was sentenced to a year in jail at Woolwich magistrates court on January 10. May received the sentence on two counts - possession of **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain** and **I Spit on Your Grave** - and was sentenced to six months in prison on each charge to run consecutively. May pleaded guilty to possessing four obscene films for gain at his shop - **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain**, **I Spit on Your Grave**, **Zombie Flesh Eaters** and **SS Experiment Camp**. Although expecting a hefty fine, May nearly collapsed in the dock when magistrate Pam Long imposed the sentence, which is the maximum allowed at a lower court.*

Even police were said to be surprised at the sentence. The official police line however is: 'We expect Mr May to use his right of appeal. This isn't a clampdown but if we think it necessary, we will take action. There are about 20 cases from this area which we are looking at at this moment'."

Even innocuous titles such as **Pigs** were not immune from seizure in the chaos of 1983 and 1984, as reported in the 1st of March 1984 issue of *Video Retailer*:

*"Eight retailers appeared in Leicester Crown Court on February 17. This followed raids on their premises a year ago when the police seized titles including **Cannibal Terror**, **Bloody Moon**, **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain**, **Faces of Death**, **The Burning**, **Cannibal Ferox**, **Last House on the Left**, **Don't Go in the House**, **Pigs**, and **The Hills Have Eyes**."*

'1984 passed into folklore as the year of the nasty', not only because it saw the DPP's list at its most extensive (in September of that year it peaked at a total of 67 titles), but also because it was the year that witnessed the birth of the most pervasive myths and legends regarding banned videos. Some of this misunderstanding was due to cases such as the one reported above - there were very often innocuous titles caught up in legal action, but no one has claimed for example that **Pigs** or **The Hills Have Eyes** have ever qualified as being 'video nasties' - whilst others are a little more tricky, and a question of legal definition as much as anything.

The two most common misconceptions regard the status in law of **Shogun Assassin** and **Xtro**. Though often referred to as 'nasties', neither title ever featured on a list published by the DPP.

Xtro was seized by Manchester Police - but in the same raid they also famously took away a video copy of **Apocalypse Now**! James Anderton, the notorious moralist in charge of the Manchester force, seemed to be obsessed with trying to remove every trace of sex and violence from the video shops under his jurisdiction.

However, there is no evidence of **Xtro** ever having been subjected to a Section Two court action. There are records of two forfeitures involving Spectrum's video of this film, one during November 1985 in Birmingham, and one during April 1985 in Newcastle. In both cases, the BBFC wrote to the solicitors involved to tell them that the film had been passed uncut with an 'X' rating. No further proceedings were taken, perhaps because of the board's intervention.

The **Shogun Assassin** case is more contentious, but still easily explained. **Shogun Assassin** - which had been given an 'X' certificate for theatrical release - was advertised in a December 1983 edition of TV Times, having been available for hire since 1981. The videos were offered at the bargain price of £8.95 each, presumably as part of an attempted stock clearance by VIPCO. The police received complaints from members of the public, and as a result VIPCO's premises were raided by Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad on the order of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A lorry was used to carry away the whole stock of 2,000 tapes. Customers never received their tapes, but were instead sent a refund and a catalogue of other VIPCO titles. Mike Lee was later tried at the country's highest criminal court, The Old Bailey, but the charge was dropped, and all of the confiscated stock was eventually returned to him. So, despite this high-profile police action and several seizures from video rental stores, **Shogun Assassin** was never added to any official DPP banned list.

The final example of misdirection that is worth highlighting here concerns the November 1984 issue of *Hells of Horror*, in which another inaccurate list of nasties' went to press. There is no reason for the inclusion of **Cain's Cut-Throats** - a violent western - as VTC's tape was never found guilty of a Section Two transgression, but that magazine also lists the Samuel Fuller war movie **The Big Red One**, which was reportedly seized because an over eager copper thought it sounded like a porn film! Mind-bogglingly sad, but true... A hint of mischief is thrown into the mix at this point however when one considers that the magazine also mentions the spoof title **Cannibal Cocaine Sluts**, directed by G. Nerik, and issued on the YJK label (!).

Frivolity aside, it should be remembered that however quaint and alien the madness of the video nasties era might appear to us in these more enlightened times, people were being sent to prison, fined huge sums of money and having their livelihoods destroyed by what in hindsight can be termed mass hysteria. The passing into law of the Video Recordings Act did not put a stop to the criminal trials either, as a few foolhardy shop owners chose to flout the new law, and continued to offer pre-VRA tapes for hire. The 29th of September 1986 edition of *Video Business* magazine ran a news article about a police raid on a video outlet in London. The owner was found to have four illegal videos – **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain** being one of them - secured in a safe on his premises which he was routinely renting to customers. Plainly old habits die hard.

Though this short potted history of the video nasty debacle summarises the key points and hopefully puts a final lid on any lingering doubts about what happened, why and when, we have also collated the hard facts into an easily-digested chart for quick and easy reference. Printed overleaf for the first time ever, is the Video Nasty Timeline.

Video Label:
Video Independent Productions
Catalogue Number: **VIP001**
Format: **Big Box**

DEAD & BURIED
Video Label: **Thorn EMI**
Catalogue Number: **TVA 90 1296**
Format: **Small Box**

I MISS YOU, HUGS & KISSES
Video Label: **Intercity**
Catalogue Number: **ICV111**
Format: **Big Box**

INFERNO
Video Label: **Twentieth Century-Fox**
Catalogue Number: **1140**
Format: **Small Box**

KILLER NUN
Video Label: **Techno Film**
Catalogue Number: **V111**
Format: **Big Box**

Purely for the sake of completeness, this page shows the covers of the ten titles caught up in the DPP's net that did not make the grade when we chose the 168 covers that take pride of place in the main section of this book. We imposed only one limitation on ourselves when making our short-list and that was to ensure that we fully represented each of the 'DPP 39' titles. Apart from these privileged few, most of the remaining covers were chosen on the strength of their design work, and in a few isolated cases, as representative covers for the output of particularly obscure video companies.

We have some fondness for the sleazy **Women Behind Bars** cover but intend to include that design in full if this volume's planned follow-up book - on the subject of pre-VRA sexploitation videos - goes into production. The artwork for **Dead & Buried**, **Inferno** and **Unhinged** is available on the films' easily obtained DVD releases. The chaotic design for **Killer Nun** was the first to be counted out, and the others shown here - **Visiting Hours**, **I Miss You Hugs & Kisses**, **Contamination** and the two VTC designs (**Revenge of the Bogey Man** and **The Witch Who Came from the Sea**) simply failed to beat off much more interesting competition.

Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1104**
Format: **Big Box**

UNHINGED
Video Label: **Avalar**
Catalogue Number: **6238**
Format: **Small Box**

VISITING HOURS
Video Label: **CBS/Fox**
Catalogue Number: **1171**
Format: **Small Box**

THE WITCH WHO CAME FROM THE SEA
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1019**
Format: **Big Box**

Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO126**
Format: **Big Box**

DPP 39	VIDEO TITLE	First List 17 4 Jul 83	+4 21 11 Jul 83	+9 30 Oct 83	+7 32 24 Oct 83	+16 48 28 Nov 83	+6. 3 53 2 Mar 84	+9 62 9 Aug 84	+5 67 Sep 84
☛	**ABSURD** (uncut version)								
☛	**ANTHROPOPHAGOUS THE BEAST**								DPP 67
☛	**AXE**								DPP 67
☛	**THE BEAST IN HEAT**								
	THE BEYOND					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**BLOODBATH**								
☛	**BLOOD FEAST**							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**BLOOD RITES**							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**BLOODY MOON**								
	THE BOGEY MAN				DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**THE BURNING** (uncut version)								
☛	**CANNIBAL APOCALYPSE**			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**CANNIBAL FEROX** (uncut version)		DPP 2	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST**		DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**THE CANNIBAL MAN**								
	CANNIBAL TERROR	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	CONTAMINATION			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	DEAD AND BURIED					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	DEATH TRAP	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	DEEP RIVER SAVAGES						DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	DELIRIUM					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**THE DEVIL HUNTER**								
	DON'T GO IN THE THEATRE	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	Dropped		
☛	**DON'T GO IN THE WOODS... ALONE!**								
	DON'T GO NEAR THE PARK					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	DON'T LOOK IN THE BASEMENT							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**THE DRILLER KILLER**								
	THE EVIL DEAD			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**EVILSPEAK**								
☛	**EXPOSÉ**								
☛	**FACES OF DEATH**								
☛	**FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE**								
☛	**FOREST OF FEAR**								
☛	**FRANKENSTEIN (ANDY WARHOL'S)**								
	FROZEN SCREAM							DPP 62	DPP 67
	FUNHOUSE								DPP 67
☛	**GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY**								
☛	**THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY**						DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK**					DPP 48	DPP 53		
	HUMAN EXPERIMENTS	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	Dropped		
	I MISS YOU, HUGS & KISSES							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE**								
	INFERNO							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**ISLAND OF DEATH** (•)								
	KICKER MAN							DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT**								
	THE LIVING DEAD			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**LOVE CAMP 7**								
☛	**MADHOUSE**								
☛	**MARDI GRAS MASSACRE**					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**NIGHT OF THE BLOODY APES**					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**NIGHT OF THE DEMON**						DPP 53		
	NIGHT TRAIN MURDERS	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	Dropped		
	NIGHTMARE MAZE					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**NIGHTMARES IN A DAMAGED BRAIN**								
	POSSESSION			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	PSYCHO II	DPP 17	DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	PRISONER OF THE CANNIBAL GOD					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	REVENGE OF THE BOGEY MAN								DPP 67
	THE SLAYER			DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**SLUGS**								
☛	**SS EXPERIMENT CAMP**								
☛	**TENEBRAE**								
	TERROR EYES						DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	THE TOOLBOX MURDERS					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	UNHINGED					DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	VISITING HOURS								DPP 67
☛	**THE WEREWOLF AND THE YETI**								
	THE WITCH WHO CAME FROM THE SEA						DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
	WOMEN BEHIND BARS							DPP 62	DPP 67
	ZOMBIE CREEPING FLESH		DPP 21	DPP 30	DPP 32	DPP 48	DPP 53	DPP 62	DPP 67
☛	**ZOMBIE FLESH EATERS**								

• Island of Death was immediately removed from the list after its appearance in November 1983. The title appeared on the list again two years later but this time it stayed, becoming part of the final DPP 39 list. It is believed that the first entry refers to the **Narciso Ibanez Serrador** film whereas the video that was finally banned is the **Nico Mastorakis** version.

Prosecuted 43 Oct 84	Pending 20 Oct 84	-1 62 Nov 84	Prosecuted (-1 +43 Jan 85	Pending 19 Jan 85	Prosecuted (+1 -3) = 41 Apr 85	Pending 1) = 18 Apr 85	3 56 May 85	3 53 Jun 85	-6 47 Jul 85	-6 41 Sep 85	+1 42 Oct 85	+1 43 Nov 85	-4 39 Dec 85
DPP 61		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
					DPP 59								
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61	Dropped								
										Missing	Missing		
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	Dropped				
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	DPP 39
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47				
DPP 63		DPP 62	Dropped										
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56						
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47				
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		Dropped						
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	Dropped				
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	Dropped			
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	Dropped				
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59								
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47				
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59							
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	DPP 53					
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61										
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56						
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		Dropped						
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	DPP 47	DPP 41	DPP 42	DPP 43	
	DPP 63	Dropped											
	DPP 63	DPP 62		DPP 61		DPP 59	DPP 56	Dropped					
DPP 63		DPP 62	DPP 61		DPP 59		DPP 56	DPP 53	Dropped				

— **Blood Bath** was missing from the lists issued during September and October 1985 but re-appeared on the list published in November 1985, restoring part of the final DPP 39 set. There is no evidence that the film was dropped intentionally, and its brief absence is most likely due to a simple administrative error.

REVIEWS

In tackling the task of writing about the 168 video releases illustrated in the main section of this book, we have decided to focus upon the art itself, the format in which it was presented, the history of the tape under consideration, and background information about the video companies that issued these tapes.

The first block of information presented within each review is specific to the actual video cover illustrated in this book. The sub-headings are as follows

Video Label: The name of the company that issued the tape. Where a company is commonly known by an acronym (for example VTC), we have shown the full correct name (in this instance Video Tape Center). We have ensured that video publishing companies and distribution companies are not confused, as a few of the major distributors insisted on very prominent logos on video cover designs, in particular World of Video 2000 and Intervision. If there is room for confusion this will be cleared up in the review itself

Catalogue Number: Note that although the convention of issuing catalogue numbers to all video releases was eventually adopted throughout the industry, in the early days of home video many tapes were issued without them

Format: Four main packaging designs were used in Britain during the pre-VRA era. The exact size of video boxes varied quite a lot. For example the spine width of VideoSpace boxes was smaller than most. Ivar Film Services later used the 'Hi-Vi Video Case', which were 'squatter' than most, at 305mm x 220mm. The four categories are as follows

- *Big Box:* 302mm x 225mm (some wider at 310mm, some shorter at 220mm)
- *Small Box:* 268mm x 205mm (not much variation)
- *Card Slip Case (small):* 230mm x 190mm (just a few mm bigger than the tape itself)

Card Box (large): 322mm x 220mm (these were actually big enough to hold a 'squat' big box!)

Release Date: It is impossible to identify the exact release date for every single video tape issued in the pre-VRA era, therefore the dates shown are the most accurate possible in each individual case. It has been possible to pinpoint the exact day and month for many titles, but for the more obscure releases we have simply listed the appropriate year

Running Time: The exact running time of the film itself, not including any corporate logos or other preliminaries. All the tapes covered in this book use the PAL system, which leads to apparent running time anomalies. In a cinema, films are projected at 24 frames per second worldwide. On video this is not the case. In the USA and Japan, where the NTSC system is used, films play at roughly 24 frames per second (actually 23.976 frames per second). In Europe and other countries that use the PAL system, films are transferred to video at a projection speed of 25 frames per second, which causes the overall running time to be approximately 4% shorter than that of the theatrical or NTSC version.

ABDUCTED

Video Label: **Astra**
Catalogue Number: **WV022**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **85m 43s**

Director: **Don Jones**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Schoolgirls in Chains, Let's Play Dead**

This sleazy outing from director Don Jones was acquired by Astra Video as part of a package of low-budget exploitation movies licensed from Charles Band's Wizard Video (also included were censor-baiting titles like **Blood Feast**, **Snuff**, **I Spit on Your Grave** and **The Best of Sex & Violence**), many of which had already been issued on video Stateside.

Interestingly, Astra's tape bore the 'safer' title for their UK release, perhaps fearing that the film's original, more overtly exploitative title of **Schoolgirls in Chains** might attract unwanted attention from the local constabulary. However this was not the case with London's Portland Films, who sneaked out an unlicensed video (under the **Schoolgirls** moniker) for the then under-the-counter sex video market.

The movie was shot by none other than Ron Garcia, whose name can nowadays be seen on big-budget glossy Hollywood pictures like **Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me** and numerous TV series.

And director Don Jones? After making several more movies, one of which is featured in this book (**The Love Butcher**), he vanished into obscurity along with this film, which will most likely remain in limbo unless it is resurrected on DVD some day by Seattle based Something Weird Video, who are thought to own the rights.

ABSURD

Video Label: **Medusa**
Catalogue Number: **MC002**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **90m 06s**

Director: **Aristide Massaccesi (as Peter Newton)**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Rosso sangue; Antropophagus 2; The Monster Hunter; Horrible**

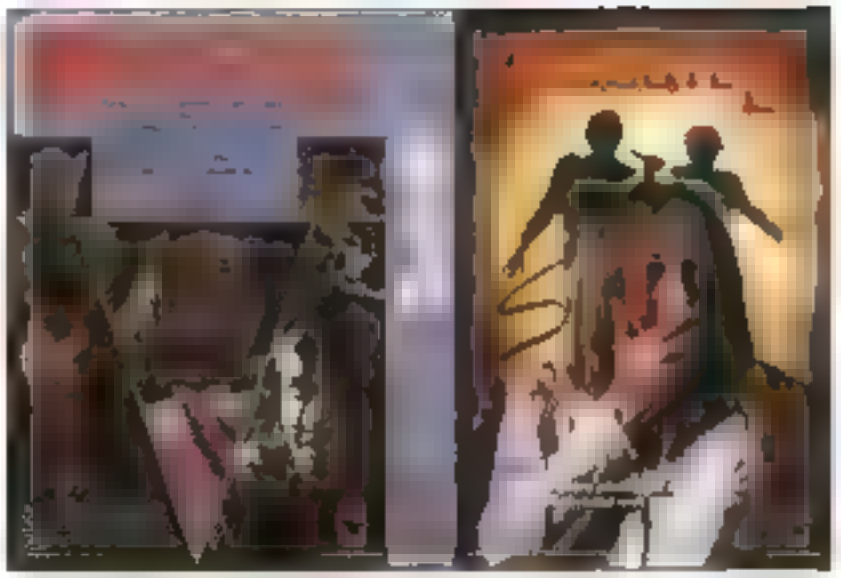
After a proposed September 1982 release from Video Film Organisation was abandoned for reasons unknown, Dave Hodgins's newly formed Medusa label issued the full uncut version of **Absurd** onto the British video rental market in November 1982.

Medusa's first batch of releases consisted mainly of Italian action and horror titles, and the company had problems with this extremely gory follow-up to **Anthropophagous the Beast**. It was submitted to the BBFC for theatrical release in August 1983, and given an '18' certificate after 3 minutes 40 seconds of cuts. When the uncut video was the subject of a Section Two charge under the Obscene Publications Act, Medusa moved swiftly to duplicate the cut version of the film. They placed adverts in the trade press telling dealers to remove all copies of the film from their shelves and return uncut versions for a free replacement. The only way to tell the

two tapes apart was by the top flap of the tape itself - if the tape duplicator's name 'Retel' is listed, then it's the cut version. Many people just copied over the cut tape with the uncut version.

Absurd remains a cult favourite, much beloved by splatter movie' fans the world-over, and is sadly still absent on home video and DVD. As it is now owned by a major studio, there is the possibility that it may never re-surface

Director Peter Newton (actually Aristide Massaccesi, and more generally known by his favoured psaudonym of Joe D'Amato) went on to become a big name in the world of porn, winning numerous awards for his own particular brand of adult 'costume drama' He died in 1999 of a heart attack.



ANDY WARHOL'S FRANKENSTEIN
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP046**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **88m 55s**

Director: **Paul Morrissey**
Country of Production: **Italy, France**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Flesh for Frankenstein; Il mostro è in tavola, barone... Frankenstein, Chair pour Frankenstein**

Although this title appeared on the official 'DPP 39' banned list, informed collectors knew that there were two video releases in circulation

The VIPCO edition was in fact a previously censored version - missing several shots of blood on breasts, a particular BBFC bugbear - which had been theatrically distributed by EMI back in 1975. The harder to find version available on the Video Gems label was distributed by the Scottish-based company Selig Marketing. This tape featured the original uncut US 'X' rated version, albeit a heavily-cropped fullscreen rendition. This tape (released in September 1981, a year before VIPCO's edition) was actually a PAL conversion prepared for the UK market, which explains its somewhat softer picture quality. Some assumed that this might have been a poor transfer of the original 3-D version, which was not the case

The VIPCO edition was first advertised in the May 1982 trade press, well in advance of its actual release in November of that year. Interestingly, these trade ads utilised the artwork that had been seen on the previous year's Video Gems edition (actually the original American theatrical poster artwork from 1973), rather than the shot of the impaled Udo Kier that was to be finally used by VIPCO

A BBFC-approved 18' version would later appear on UK video, care of First Independent, with nearly one minute of BBFC cuts. Due to licensing problems, the film has remained unavailable in the UK for many years, along with its partner in crime, **Andy Warhol's Dracula** (aka **Blood for Dracula**)

A DVD was released in the US as part of the renowned Criterion Collection in 1998, indicating the film's perceived importance.

ANTHROPOPHAGOUS THE BEAST
Video Label: **Video Film Promotions**
Catalogue Number: **VFP001**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **88m 14s**

Director: **Aristide Massaccesi (as Joe D'Amato)**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Antropophagus; The Man-Eater; The Grim Reaper**

There is confusion regarding the correct English language title for this film, solely due to the artistic, but incomprehensible, typography used on the VFP cover. References to the film can be found in the trade press under all of these titles: **The Beast - Anthropophagous**, **The Anthropophagous Beast**, and the most common variant, which we have decided to adopt, **Anthropophagous the Beast**.

Video Film Promotions (VFP) kick-started their label with this grisly exploitation epic from Joe (Aristide Massaccesi) D'Amato. Like many other labels of the era, VFP chose to release a mixed-bag of Italian movies, due to their lower acquisition costs. Gulf Video Centre had advertised their own video release of this film in December 1982, but it never materialised, for the simple reason that GVC employee Tahir Farooq had left the company to set up VFP in February 1983, and took the title with him to launch the new label.

Like its sequel **Absurd**, it was inevitable that **Anthropophagous the Beast** would end up on the DPP banned list, particularly after numerous successful prosecutions. VFP folded a year later after just ten video releases, and the masters were acquired by Video Shack. Quick to see a money-earner, the master was re-edited to show flashbacks from the movie, rather than the gruesome carnage of the banned version. The cover was also re-designed, but due to confusion as to what version was actually banned, this heavily censored edition sold very poorly and remains a highly prized tape among pre-cert collectors, commanding ludicrously high prices.

During the late 1980s when collectors' homes were being raided to 'rid the world of these evil videos', clips from **Anthropophagous** would turn up on TV news reports, indicating that real 'snuff' movies were being circulated amongst horror fans!

A heavily truncated version of the film has been released on UK DVD as **The Grim Reaper**. It is best avoided at all costs.

AXE
Video Label: **Video Releasing Organization**
Catalogue Number: **VN0004**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **64m 49s**

Director: **Frederick R. Friedel**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1977**
aka: **California Axe Massacre**, **Lisa Lisa**, **The Virgin Slaughter**

Along with **Axe**, Video Releasing Organization (VRO) had acquired a package of similarly scuzzy titles for UK video distribution, which included films such as **The Child**, **The Mad Butcher** (initially released in the UK as **Strangler of Vienna**, as illustrated elsewhere in this book), and **A Scream in the Streets**.

Originally distributed in the US by legendary sexploitation mogul Harry H. Novak, (of Box Office International Pictures), **Axe** appeared on UK video rental store shelves at around the same time it was playing UK

cinemas, under the **Texas Chain Saw Massacre** cash-in title '**California Axe Massacre**' - even though it was set in North Carolina. Obviously the alternate title '**The Virgin Slaughter**' wasn't an option for the UK.

Although the British theatrical release had been cut for a BBFC approved 'X' rating, VRO sneaked this tape out onto the then unregulated video market in an uncut version.

Consequently, this uncensored release ended up on the banned list, where it remained to become one of the final DPP 39. It wasn't until 1999, when it was submitted to the BBFC for a video release, that it could be legally purchased again in the UK. That is, after it had received the obligatory cuts. An uncensored DVD is now available from the US.

VRO also distributed another Frederick R. Friedel film, **Kidnapped Coed**, which was also released by Astra offshoot Lynx as **Date with a Kidnapper**. Friedel makes an on-screen appearance in **Axe**, playing one of the thugs (Billy). He recently made a belated comeback when he wrote, produced and directed the film **My Next Funeral**, in 2000.

BEAST
Video Label: **Delta**
Catalogue Number: **DV1**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **21 July 1983**
Running Time: **80m 00s**

Director: **Eddie Romero**
Country of Production: **The Philippines**
Year of Production: **1970**
aka: **Beast of the Yellow Night**

Delta Video only ever issued four movies in the UK before vanishing into obscurity. Like most companies operating at the time, it's doubtful whether they had any idea of exactly what they were acquiring, but that did not stop them making the best of what they found themselves owning, as is the case with this Filipino obscurity.

The title on the cover is rather misleading, as the movie itself is called **Beast of the Yellow Night** on-screen, so one wonders how many punters took the tape back assuming they'd been given the wrong movie. It is also notable that there were no stars credited on the cover - basically because there are none! Watching the movie one could easily be forgiven for thinking it made absolutely no sense, as whoever duplicated the tape got the reels in the wrong order!

Ted Taber, sales manager for ATA and Cyclo Video left the two companies as of the 30th of June 1983 to run his own label Delta Video Distribution. **Beast** was his first release. Ted promoted the launch of his label by donning a 'Beast' outfit, "scaring the living daylights out of wholesalers all the way from Tottenham Court Road to Charing Cross" as reported in that week's trade press. The next Delta tape was **Hells Angels on Wheels** which they put out under the title **Angel Warriors II** (perhaps in response to the Mega Films release of another biker film, **Angels Hard As They Come** on video as **Angel Warriors!**). This release was swiftly followed by **Crazy Mama** and **Rebel with a Cause**, before the company disappeared without a trace.

Eddie Romero is best known for directing the 'Blood Island' trilogy (**Brides of Blood**, **The Mad Doctor of Blood Island** and **Beast of Blood**), released as **Island of Living Horror**, **Tomb of the Living Dead** and **The Beast of the Dead** respectively on the Horror Time label. Little is known about Horror Time, but these were the label's only releases.

THE BEAST IN HEAT
Video Label: **JVI**
Catalogue Number: **JVI006**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **85m 59s**

Director: **Luigi Batzella (as Ivan Katansky)**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **La bestia in calore**; **Horrifing Experiments of S.S. Last Days** (sic); **SS Hell Camp**; **Holocausto Nazi SS Experiment Camp 2**

Considering this video's elusiveness, it's a miracle that it managed to wangle its way onto the banned list at all. At a rough estimate, perhaps several hundred copies at most were duplicated - poorly, as the picture flickers in and out of colour - and today the tape commands an average selling price of anything from £300 to £500 among diehard collectors wanting to complete their 'video nasty' collections.

The film itself is basically a dull war movie (Batzella's earlier **When the Bell Tolls**, 1970) which the producers decided to spice up with some Nazi death camp footage in order to cash-in on the then current trend for 'Nasty Nazi' cinema. The footage itself, obviously inspired by Canada's **Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS** (1974) is actually more laughable than offensive, with hamsters in place of rats, and some hilarious dubbed dialogue along the lines of 'Stop! You're hurting me!' calmly stated by a hapless girl as she is having her fingernails torn out with pliers.

Releasing company JVI was run by David Meddick. Based in Rochdale, Lancashire, they released just eight titles in all, their catalogue consisting of three Japanese films and five rather obscure European titles.

THE BELL OF HELL
Video Label: **Duplivision**
Catalogue Number: **DPV0004E**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1983**
Running Time: **92m 44s**

Director: **Claudio Guerin Hill**
Country of Production: **Spain, France**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **La campana del infierno**, **A Bell from Hell**; **La cloche de l'enfer**

Appearing in just about every video store across London during the latter part of 1983, **The Bell of Hell** has now become one of the better made titles to be sought out by collectors of European cult cinema, although the high prices the tape commands make little sense as it was very easy to find at the time of its release.

Duplivision, who were based in North London, issued just six tapes in all (one was a double-bill of two British shorts: **Give Me a Ring Sometime**, in reality the pilot episode for aborted TV series **Go Girl**, and **Take An Easy Ride**, a 1976 short made by Kenneth Rowles, which also found a solo release on Iver Film Services). Duplivision promptly vanished without trace around a year later, no doubt due to the high costs of paying for BBFC certification.

This is one of the most highly sought-after pre-VRA tapes, due to its rarity and the fact that the film itself has not been released since. Good condition originals have been

known to command prices in excess of £100. At the time of writing however a Region 1 DVD is due from Pathfinder, so this tape's value is sure to plummet.

There is a rather tragic postscript as the movie's director Claudio Guerin Hill tragically fell from the bell tower on the last day of filming and was killed, leaving Juan Antonio Bardem to complete the feature.

THE BEYOND
Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1021**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **March 1982**
Running Time: **81m 59s**

Director: **Lucio Fulci**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **L'aldilà**; **Seven Doors of Death**

Videomedia began by issuing educational videotapes of foreign language courses, and then realised that there was more money to be made by releasing feature films onto the fast-expanding early eighties home video market.

Vampix - a favourite label amongst collectors - was established by Videomedia to handle their horror product, and well-known UK genre journalist Alan Jones was hired to write the sleeve notes.

Back in those heady days, video distributors had the choice between approved BBFC classified versions (which had previously played at the cinema), or unclassified versions, bypassing the BBFC and probable cuts. Sadly, it was Videomedia's decision to play it safe by issuing the approved versions of their movies.

This was the Vampix label's thirteenth release, and was their first issue of a film by Italian gore guru Lucio Fulci. Famously packed with violent imagery, **The Beyond** suffered 1 minute 34 seconds of compulsory cuts, including chain-whipping and many scenes of eyeball violence' - a recurring theme in Fulci's work. Even though the BBFC approved 'X' version was issued, this didn't stop it falling foul of police forces across the country. After several court appearances the video was eventually removed from the DPP's hit list, and in recent years it has finally been granted a fully uncut certificate by the BBFC.

BLOOD BATH
Video Label: **Hokushin**
Catalogue Number: **VM75**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **80m 54s**

Director: **Mario Bava**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **Reazione a catena (Ecologia del delitto)**; **A Bay of Blood**; **Twitch of the Death Nerve**; **Carnage**

Banned by the BBFC when submitted for theatrical exhibition by New Realm Distributors in April 1972, this uncut video release appeared on tape almost eleven years later, in February 1983.

The company responsible for its debut was Streatham-based Hokushin Audio Visual, and this was their seventy-fifth release. Hokushin had launched their assault on the video renting public back in 1979 (the company was one of the first), with a selection of British sex comedies. **Blood Bath** quickly found itself embroiled in the video nasties furore, and was destined to be named as one of the final 39 banned video titles, having been a member of the nasty élite ever since the publication of the DPP's very first list in July 1983.

Despite the film's notoriety, Medusa announced their own release of the film in 1984, under the title **Bay of Blood**. Sleeves were printed and distributed via sales reps, but the release was shelved at the last minute. Medusa's proposed catalogue number for the film, MC022, was later used for **Out of Control** released in 1985.

A precursor to the American slasher movies which were to follow - in fact it is a specific, acknowledged influence on the original **Friday the 13th** - this Italian slasher from Mario Bava is now considered a classic. Featuring very strong scenes of violence - including the hanging of a crippled woman in the opening scene - the film remains censored to this day in the UK, although if re-submitted for a BBFC certificate today it would most likely pass uncut.

[illegible]
Video Label: **Rank**
Catalogue Number: **2015C**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **79m 56s**

Director: **Joel M. Reed**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**

It was unfortunate that this tongue-in-cheek curiosity was destined to cause some confusion for video store managers, solely because it shared its title with Mario Bava's banned classic. The advisory lists published by the DPP back in those troubled times didn't divulge such minor details as video releasing companies, so to avoid hefty fines, both versions were swiftly removed from rental store shelves. Of course, things would have been very different if the director's next effort, the notorious **Bloodsucking Freaks (aka The Incredible Torture Show)** had ever made its way onto UK video..

Meanwhile **Blood Bath** remains unavailable on home video, and it would seem that this was its only ever video release, which is a pity for fans of **Halloween**'s P.J. Soles, as she makes one of her first appearances in this movie.

BLOOD FEAST
Video Label: **Astra**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **64m 10s**

Director: **Herschell Gordon Lewis**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1963**

After spotting an opening in the American drive-in horror market for depicting graphic death and bodily dismemberment, producer David Friedman and director Herschell Gordon Lewis got together to create the very first 'splatter movie'. Filmed in

Miami in just nine days at a cost of under $25,000, **Blood Feast** is easily the oldest movie to attain video nasty status

Curiously, nobody ever considered the film for theatrical distribution in the UK, so this video release is the first time it appeared on these shores, much to the delight of gore fans. It was another title that Astra acquired for distribution from Charles Band's Wizard company, and it was launched at the May 1982 Manchester Trade Show, partnered by Astra's infamous tape of **Snuff**. "Wall-To-Wall Gore" screamed the headline on Astra's full-page press ads for the dastardly duo.

Such was the outpouring of concern and disgust generated by **Snuff** that the very idea of this film being made available on video in the UK was abandoned immediately by Astra. The company cancelled its release before allowing any official copies into circulation, but this did not stop the bootleggers, as explained in the full **Snuff** write-up elsewhere in this book. The official release of **Blood Feast** went ahead as planned however and it continued to sell briskly into the voracious rental market before, ironically enough, it was whisked off shelves under threat of prosecution.

Blood Feast is now available on UK DVD, although following a successful Obscene Publications Act (OPA) conviction as recently as 1994, it required cuts of 23 seconds to a scene depicting sexualised violence - actually a woman being whipped. The American DVD is of course uncut.

BLOOD LUST
Video Label: **Derann**
Catalogue Number: **DV130**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **81m 25s**

Director: **Marijan Vajda**
Country of Production: **Switzerland**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Mosquito**; **Mosquito der Schänder**

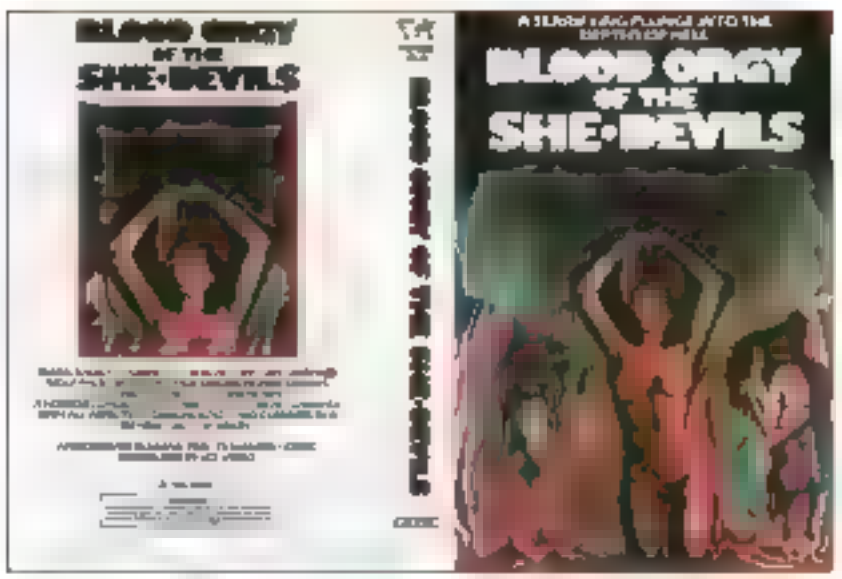
Released to UK cinemas by the aptly named Butchers Film Service (under the title **Mosquito**), it was this same BBFC 'X' approved version - after three and a half minutes of cuts and a title change (the German moniker translates literally as 'Mosquito the Rapist') - which appeared on this videotape five years later in 1981. After making this quite shocking exploitation movie, which features shades of necrophilia, director Vajda moved into TV, where he still works today.

Derann (actually couple Derek and Anne Simmonds) had been around a long time before video, having started up in the business by hiring out 8mm film prints and projection equipment. They were among the very first people to see that the way forward was the video rental market. The company name derives from the simple idea of combining the first three letters of the owners' first names, **Derek** and **Anne**.

BLOOD ORGY
NOTHING SO APPALLING IN THE ANNALS OF HORROR
BLOOD ORGY
NOTHING SO APPALLING IN THE ANNALS OF HORROR
BLOOD ORGY
ASTRA VIDEO

BLOOD ORGY OF THE SHE-DEVILS
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **C035C**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1982**
Running Time: **75m 39s**

Director: **Ted V. Mikels**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **Female Plasma Suckers**



Come up with a great title and poster campaign and you can sell anything it seems. This movie (and **The Corpse Grinders**, made the same year) clearly demonstrates how true this is, for they don't come much more inept and badly acted. Still, at least it's worth watching - though for all the wrong reasons. For example, if you look closely you might be able to spot Annik Borel the **Werewolf Woman** herself (see this film's great video covers elsewhere in this book).

Director Ted Mikels once lived in a castle with a bevy of sexy girls, most of whom he cast in his movies. He's still working in the business at the time of writing, and even teaches filmmaking(!) If you search hard enough you may even find this film's sequel, **Cauldron: Baptism of Blood**, which Ted shot on video as recently as 2004!

Blood Orgy of the She-Devils first appeared on videotape in 1980 - along with label mates **The Corpse Grinders**, **Thirst** and **The Giant Spider Invasion** - in a small card slip-case carton, which many video rental stores just cut to fit into a standard plastic video box. Another edition was issued later in a plastic audio cassette-style box, and finally came this third release, adorned with fantastic, lurid cover art, after VCL changed distribution to the mighty CBS/Fox.

BLOOD RITES
Video Label: **Scorpio**
Catalogue Number: **SVP101**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **15 March 1983**
Running Time: **67m 22s**

Director: **Andy Milligan**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1967**
aka: **The Ghastly Ones**

Another of the final DPP 39 titles, this one was made available by the short-lived Essex-based Scorpio label, who launched this tape (which incidentally retailed at the then relatively reasonable sum of £29.95 + VAT) with a well-advertised champagne party! After just two video releases - the other a double-bill of British horror **Invitation to Hell** and **The Last Night** (also featured in this book) - Scorpio sadly ceased trading. The company's efforts were more captivating than most for collectors however, as Scorpio decided to illustrate their releases with double-sided covers - a first for the British video industry.

Instead of listing Andy Milligan's name on the cover as director, the producer's name, Jerome Frederic, was shown in error. Basic errors such as this were unfortunately quite commonplace at the time.

Milligan's story is one that should be made into a movie. He led a famously depraved lifestyle, a promiscuous homosexual with sado-masochistic tendencies; he was also a known misogynist, and his generally misanthropic attitude meant that he lived a hard life of constant interpersonal battles. It is therefore not surprising that this film, in common with most of his work, is a mean-spirited affair.

THE BLOOD SPATTERED BRIDE
Video Label: **Mountain**
Catalogue Number: **VCA Z/023**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1980**
Running Time: **96m 14s**

Director **Vicente Aranda**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **La novia ensangretada**. **Till Death Do Us Part**

Based on J. Shandan Le Fanu's classic lesbian vampire story *Carmilla*. **The Blood Spattered Bride** is one of Quentin Tarantino's personal favourites - as demonstrated by the fact that Uma Thurman's character references the film towards the end of **Kill Bill Vol. 1** (2003). Director Aranda was also responsible for the sex-change curiosity **I Want To Be a Woman** released by Monte Video in January 1983.

This British video release of Aranda's most celebrated film was for some time a much sought-after item, and although it replicated the slightly cut BBFC 'X' cinema version distributed previously in 1979 by Eagle Films, it was the best way to see this gem on home video for many years, until it finally appeared on DVD in America.

Mountain Video, operating under the directorship of Peter Burr and Aubrey Ross, was based in Central London. Like Derann and Walton, Mountain had been distributing Super 8 films long before the advent of home video, and was one of the very first companies to issue movies on videotape in the UK. Their earliest releases, dating back to 1980, consisted of a mish-mash of British sex comedies, children's cartoons, and musicals. They released around 100 titles in all, a handful of which would later appear on the Movietime label.

BLOOD VENGEANCE
Video Label: **Walton**
Catalogue Number: **WLG38**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **January 1983**
Running Time: **91m 10s**

Director: **Aristide Massaccesi (as Joe D'Amato)**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **Emanuelle e Françoise (Le sorelline)**; **Emanuelle and Françoise**; **Emmanuelle's Revenge**

Previously seen in the UK as **Emanuelle and Françoise**, this one had shown in the numerous sex cinemas dotted around the country. Of most importance however, is the fact that it was distributed by Variety Film Distributors, who had been around since 1972, and were managed by the late Michael Green. He went on to form Entertainment Film Distributors in 1978, and since then they have grown to become Britain's most successful independent distribution company, handling movies like the **Lord of the Rings** trilogy. The company is now run by Green's sons Nigel and Trevor.

Emanuelle and Françoise made its debut on video (with a change of title) through Hamish Gibson and Gerald Good's Walton Film and Video who, along with several other UK video labels (Hokushin for example), had agreed video output deals for a selection of titles which had been theatrically released by Variety Film Distributors.

Blood Vengeance became another title that was highly prized by collectors of horror and sleaze movies alike. Directed by the much-banned Italian Massaccesi (**Absurd**, **Anthropophagous the Beast**), it was missing around 5 minutes of offending footage due to its BBFC 'X' rating. However it was the video's lurid cover that made it such a desirable item. At the time of writing the film is still rather surprisingly unavailable on DVD.

BLOODY MOON
Video Label: **Inter-Light**
Catalogue Number: **ILV107**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **81m 35s**

Director: **Jess Franco**
Country of Production: **West Germany**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Die Sage des Todes**; **Colegialas violadas**; **Profondo** [illegible]

Another of the video nasties that had already been theatrically exhibited in the UK, this one admittedly only managed to get out into cinemas after having been shorn of around two minutes of violence by Britain's beloved censors.

Two versions of **Bloody Moon** appeared on videotape in Britain at approximately the same time as the cinema release, and the video which was to cause most fuss was of course the one containing the uncensored print of the film, which included shots of blood-on-breasts and an unforgettable scene involving decapitation by a circular saw! This was sneaked out by Inter-Light after they had initially issued the sanitised BBFC 'X' approved theatrical version, with a running time of only 79 minutes 35 seconds. Inter-Light operated independently for a couple of years, before joining the mighty Intervision in June 1983.

Bloody Moon was finally given a fully certificated British video release from VIPCO in 1993, albeit in a version with similar cuts to the original theatrical release prints, and it is now available on DVD in the UK too. A Dutch DVD is also available, and although uncut, it suffers from sound synchronisation problems in the pre-credits sequence.

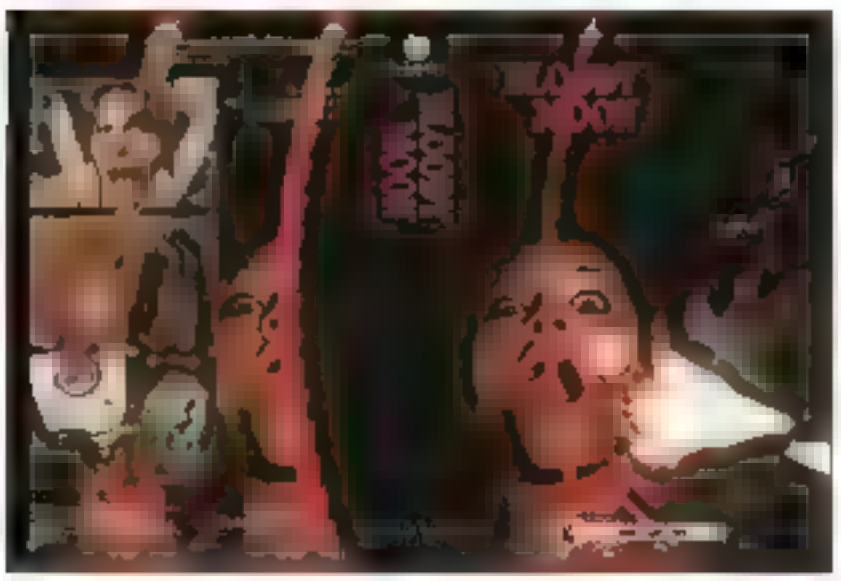
THE BLUE EYES OF THE BROKEN DOLL
Video Label: **Canon**
Catalogue Number: **CV003**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **85m 03s**

Director: **Carlos Aured**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Los ojos azules de la muñeca rota**; **House of Psychotic Women**; **House of Doom**

Issued Stateside under the rather more alluring title **House of Psychotic Women**, this 1973 Paul Naschy shocker arrived on British shores in its uncut export version during October 1982 courtesy of Wembley-based Canon Video who specialised in off-beat genre fare. Collectable Canon titles include **Exorcism**, **Pranks**, **The Werewolf and the Yeti** - all of which are also featured in this book - plus the likes of Borowczyk's **Behind Convent Walls**, yet more Naschy in the form of **Vengeance of the Zombies**, and **The Desert Tigers**, which was directed by Luigi '**The Beast in Heat**' Batzella.

Although several of Naschy's movies have been seen on UK cinema screens, **The Blue Eyes of the Broken Doll** had not been picked up for a UK theatrical release, and remains unavailable to this day on video or DVD.

Naschy however continues to make films in his native Spain, and has recently hit form again with 2004's **Rojo sangre**, in which he plays an underappreciated horror actor!



BOARDING HOUSE
Video Label: **Horrorvision (Magnum)**
Catalogue Number: **MG006**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **28 November 1983**
Running Time: **89m 10s**

Director: **Johnn Wintergate**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka: **Housegaist**

A real curiosity this one. Considered by many to be one of the very worst shot-on-video features, it does at least have the distinction of being one of the first films of its type to have received a cinema release (in the USA), and is also notable for having been screened at the Andy Warhol Museum, of all places.

Director Johnn Wintergate (starring under the name Hawk Audley) and his partner Kalassu also appeared in Don (**Ilsa**) Edmonds's **Terror on Tour** released on the Media Home Entertainment label.

Issued on the very hard to find Magnum video label, **Boarding House** was touted as being filmed in HorrorVision ("You Don't Need Glasses - Only a Strong Heart!"), which really was just scraping the barrel by trying to cash-in on William Castle's promotional methods. It didn't work, and it seems this one won't be seen again. If we're lucky, that is.

Magnum were based in Bilston, West Midlands, and **Boarding House** was the company's sixth release, following four sex-comedies on their 'Midas' label: **Secrets of a Super Stud**, **Adventures of Archie**, **Adventures of Tim** and **Adventures of a Teenage Tramp** (the 'Adventures' films are all video re-titlings), and one on their 'AB' label (**Shamus**).

THE BOGEY MAN
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP014**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1 November 1981**
Running Time: **79m 24s**

Director: **Ulli Lommel**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **The Boogeyman**

Picked up for theatrical release in 1980 by Michael Myers's Miracle Films, and originally entitled **The Boogeyman**, it was retitled **The Bogey Man** to better suit the British market. A year later a deal was struck for a video rental release via Mike Lee's ever-expanding Video Instant Picture Company (VIPCO).

Eagle-eyed video collectors will have noticed that the company logo on the very first VIPCO tapes, for example the original 'X'-certificate release of **Zombie Flesh Eaters**, was actually VIPC - this being a literal acronym. The logo showed these initials within a graphic representing the spools of a video cassette, and at first glance would be read as 'VIPCO' by most people anyway. The formal change was made with the release of **Starcrash**, the company's sixth big box release, which came out in January 1981. The VIPC logo can also be found on the company's first seven releases, which appeared in 1979 and 1980, packaged in small card slip cases. Next to impossible to find now, the titles in question were **Bed**

Hostesses, Caged Women, The Glorious Musketeers, Hot Sex in Bangkok, The Invincible Iron Palm, Sweet & Sexy, and **The Young Seducers**

In VIPCO's early 1980s heyday, **The Bogey Man** must have been one of the company's biggest renting titles, as it could be found in just about every video store across the country, and was promoted by a series of high-profile magazine advertisements.

During October 1983 **The Bogey Man** suddenly began to appear on the DPP banned list, but it was soon dropped when it was unsuccessfully prosecuted. There's no doubt that its brief period of infamy only added to its rental revenues. It's now easily available on DVD just about everywhere.

The film spawned a sequel, **Revenge of the Bogey Man**, which re-used vast amounts of footage from the original film. It was released by Video Tape Center and was also briefly on the DPP list. A re-edited version is currently available on DVD in the USA, but this terrible movie is best avoided at all costs.

THE BURNING
Video Label: **Thorn EMI**
Catalogue Number: **TVA 90 0836**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **87m 26s**

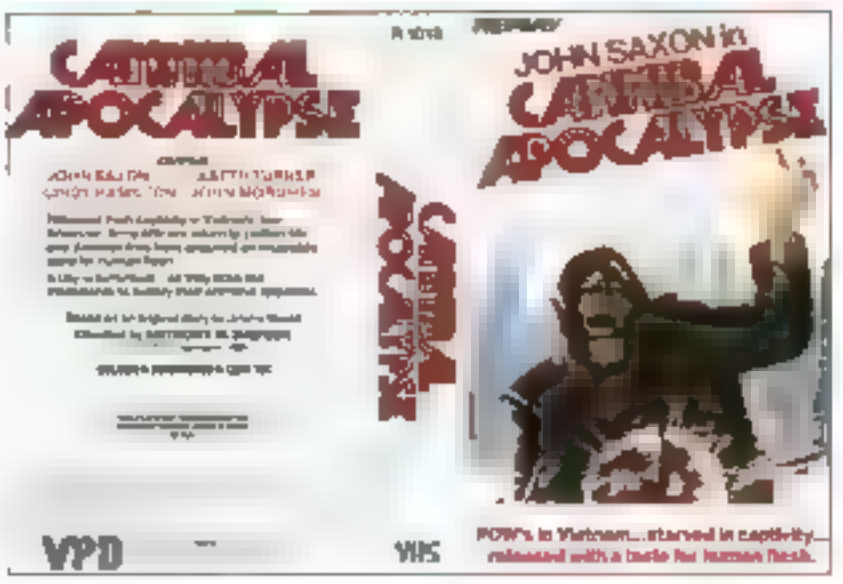
Director: **Tony Maylam**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Burning Revenge; Carnage**

Theatrically distributed in 1981 by ex-Beatle George Harrison's Handmade Films in a censored BBFC 'X' version, this classic early slasher movie caused a great deal of trouble for the head honchos at respectable Thorn EMI (who owned Radio Rentals and D.E.R.). They erroneously issued the uncut version - including 10 seconds that the BBFC had removed for British theatrical exhibition - onto the home video rental market in October 1982, only realising their mistake three weeks later after receiving numerous complaints from within the trade.

Despite Thorn EMI's best efforts **The Burning** quickly joined the other video nasties on the DPP hit-list. On 18 November 1982 ads were placed in the video trade press urging store owners to return the tape, promising that anybody doing so would eventually be sent back the newly duplicated BBFC approved version, with a date stamp on the label (actually 5th April 1983) to prove that all was in order - and to keep the boys in blue at bay!

Of course, these being the outlaw years, video store owners were reluctant to part with their uncut copies, since it was a sure fire renter to horror fans in the know - and then there were those video store dealers who were just plain ignorant or didn't care either way.

The Burning has since been issued uncut on DVD in Britain by VIPCO with all previous cuts waived, after being passed by the BBFC in October 2002.



CANNIBAL
Video Label: **Derann**
Catalogue Number: **DV133**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **August 1981**
Running Time: **82m 48s**

Director: **Ruggero Deodato**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Ultimo mondo cannibale, Last Cannibal World, The Last Survivor, The Cannibals, Jungle Holocaust**

Director Ruggero Deodato was destined to make the infamous **Cannibal Holocaust** a few years after this effective jungle adventure epic. Unlike its much more ferocious follow-up **Cannibal** did not fall into the clutches of the DPP, never making an appearance on the infamous video nasties list. Amusingly, Deodato's name was mis-spelled on Derann's cover, where he is credited as Reggero Deodatu.

Another title theatrically distributed by Michael Myers's Miracle Films, **Cannibal** had been cut to obtain a BBFC-approved 'X' rating back in 1977, which required the removal of around 5 minutes worth of cannibalistic gut-munching and animal cruelty. Miracle had also imposed a title change on the feature for the UK, having shortened it from the original **Last Cannibal World**, a literal translation of the Italian title **Ultimo mondo cannibale**.

Four years later, a deal was struck with Derann Film Services in the West Midlands who released it to the home video market in the same censored version. This was to become one of Derann's biggest selling titles, along with **Italian Stallion**.

The DVD issued by Hardgore in 2003 is also missing some animal cruelty, but is slightly less censored overall losing approximately three minutes. Uncut DVDs are available from America and Italy.

CANNIBAL APOCALYPSE
Video Label: **Replay**
Catalogue Number: **R1015**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **92m 06s**

Director: **Antonio Margheriti (as Anthony M. Dawson)**
Country of Production: **Italy, Spain**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Apocalipse domani, Virus, Invasion of the Flesh Hunters, Cannibals in the Streets**

Legendary Italian director Margheriti was responsible for some of the best Euro-horror and thriller movies, and this is one his most well-known. Issued on video in an uncut version in July 1982, just one month before Replay's uncut release of Umberto Lenzi's notorious **Cannibal Ferox**, no company had dared pick these films up for theatrical release, fearing an outright ban for either movie. However, as there was no formal system of video censorship in Britain during the early 1980s, Replay decided to issue both films intact.

After many complaints and the *Daily Mail* media witch-hunt, **Cannibal Apocalypse** soon found itself in the dock where it was successfully prosecuted and joined the other titles on the DPP's most-wanted list.

The Replay label (which was launched by Video Programme Distributors Ltd, or VPD for short, in February 1982) was based in the G.E.C. industrial estate in Wembley. Another VPD label, Canon Video, still operate a duplication facility in Wembley to this day.

Cannibal Apocalypse remains unavailable on UK video or DVD although a gorgeous, extras-laden edition is available from the USA.

CANNIBAL FEROX
Video Label: **Replay**
Catalogue Number: **R1016**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **August 1982**
Running Time: **89m 08s**

Director: **Umberto Lenzi**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Make Them Die Slowly, Woman from Deep River, Cannibal Ferox**

A month after issuing **Cannibal Apocalypse**, Replay followed up with this even more outrageous cannibal-themed feature. Released in America as **Make Them Die Slowly** where it was promoted with an advertising campaign boasting that the film was "banned in 39 countries", it wasn't long before it was added to the official DPP list, where it remained after numerous successful convictions.

Due to demand however Replay decided to offer a much softer cut-down version to video rental stores. This new release, which carried a BBFC '18' rating on the cover, had been voluntarily submitted to the censorship board by Replay. 6 minutes 51 seconds were cut for this 'informal' certificate, which was issued in September 1982.

The film was not given an official (i.e. post-VRA) British video certificate until the end of 2000, when VIPCO's Mike Lee submitted exactly the same heavily pre-cut version, but an additional cut of six seconds was needed in order to remove the sight of an animal on the end of a rope, which could be seen to be banging against the side of a jeep. This cut was personally ordered by James Ferman in accordance with the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act, 1937. Uncut DVDs have been released elsewhere in the world.

CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO121**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1982**
Running Time: **85m 14s**

Director: **Ruggero Deodato**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Nackt und Zerfleischt, Cannibal Massaker, Holocausto cannibal**

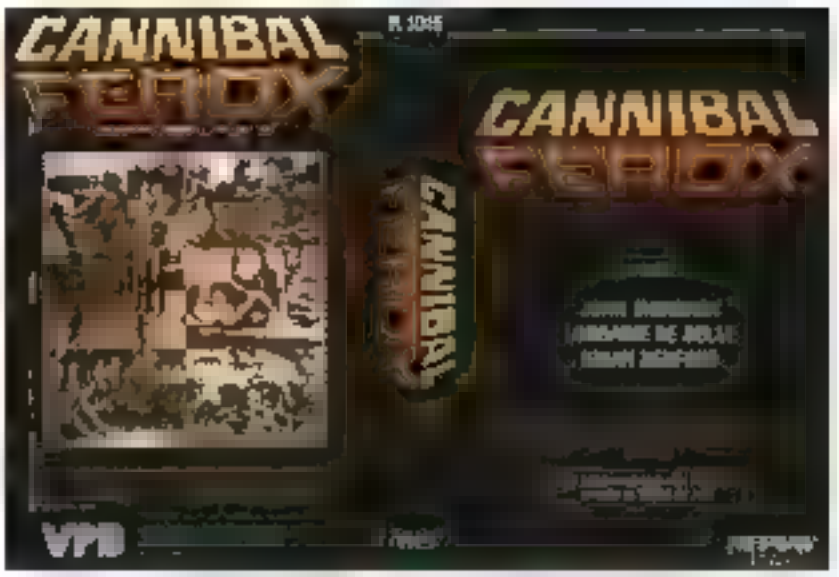
Pre-cut by Go Video prior to its February 1982 video debut **Cannibal Holocaust** still contained enough on-screen carnage (and an eye-catching cover to match) to warrant the attention of various campaigners against video violence. Go Video were not shy of promoting their release, even issuing free beer mats featuring the cover artwork to pubs.

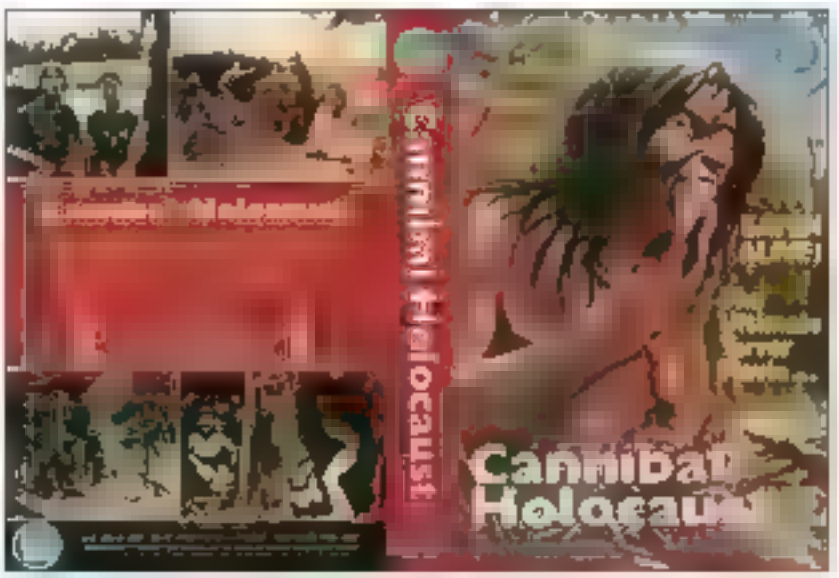
Pressure from Mary Whitehouse's clean-up campaign group, The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association (NVALA), was amplified by *The Daily Mail*, who began an over-zealous mission to rid Britain's video stores of violent works. Their first article "How high street horror is invading the home" appeared in May 1982, only a few months after **Cannibal Holocaust** was released. The newspaper, and others, continued their tirades, until the Conservative government, under pressure from the NVALA, included a manifesto pledge to protect young people from horror and pornography in the run-up to the 1983 General Election.

Following their victory, the government allowed time for obscure backbench MP Graham Bright to introduce a Private Members' Bill to regulate video content, and this subsequently passed into law as the Video Recordings Act 1984 (VRA), with the BBFC being designated to classify all video releases (with some exemptions) intended to be supplied for sale and hire in the United Kingdom.

Cannibal Holocaust, one of the most notorious titles on the DPP's list, was submitted for classification by VIPCO in July 2001. It was passed after nearly six minutes of compulsory cuts were made for '18' which removed all orchestrated scenes depicting animal cruelty and some eroticised sexual violence'. These changes rendered it significantly different from the work which had previously been prosecuted and which may have been likely once again to fall foul of the criminal law.

There have been several uncut DVDs released in Europe, the most impressive of which comes from Italy, complete with a director's audio commentary and extensive behind the scenes footage.





THE CANNIBAL MAN

Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0348**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **94m 13s**

Director: **Eloy De La Iglesia**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **La semana del asesino**, **The Apartment on the 13th Floor**

The original Spanish title, which translates literally as 'The Week of the Killer', sums up this movie much more accurately. **The Cannibal Man** isn't a cannibal movie at all, actually playing more like a horror melodrama.

Due in part to its misleading re-titling (which was imposed by the German licensor), and the fact that all of the so-called 'cannibal' movies were being found obscene in the courts, it was inevitable that it would join the other banned titles.

Intervision, who were one of the very first British video companies and one of the largest, had been around since the late 1970s. They originally did business by offering videotapes to rental stores - on a rental only basis. In practical terms, this meant that the shops paid Intervision to rent their tapes, and in turn the shops could hire the tapes out to their customers.

Early Intervision releases were distinctive because the tapes were packaged in video-sized card slip cases. Sadly, these were just too fragile for most video stores, so many were cut down in order to fit into the sleeves of standard plastic video boxes. As a result of this, mint condition early Intervision releases are now an increasing rarity in the pre-VRA tape collector's market. Intervision soon fell into line with the rest of the industry and started to issue their tapes in standard plastic video boxes, as was the case with a planned later re-issue of **The Cannibal Man**, which despite being branded with a (voluntary) '18' rating, was to have contained the same uncut version of the film as is found on the small box release. The film was withdrawn from sale completely by Intervision after it was added to the DPP video nasties list in July 1983, and as a result the big box version was never actually released, though sample sleeves were produced, as can be seen in the alternative sleeves section at the back of this book.

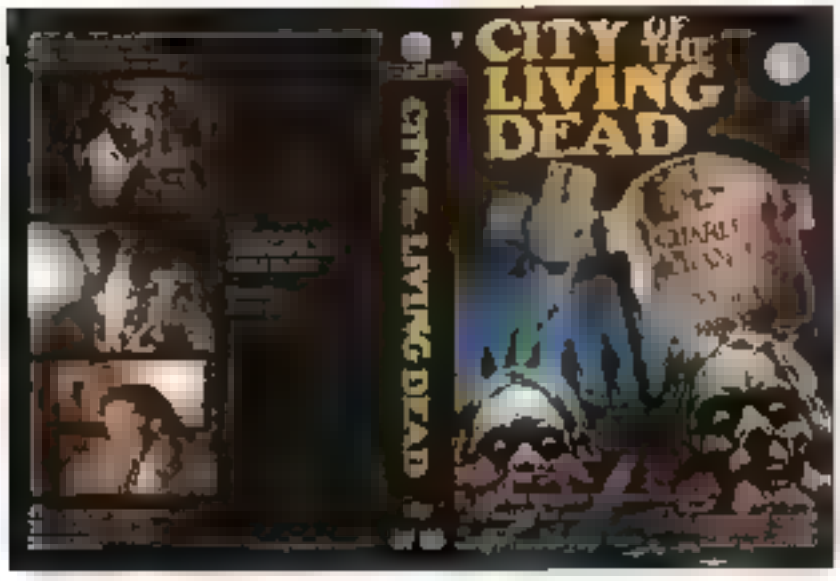
CANNIBAL TERROR
Video Label: **Modern Films**
Catalogue Number: **MD10**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1981**
Running Time: **89m 37s**

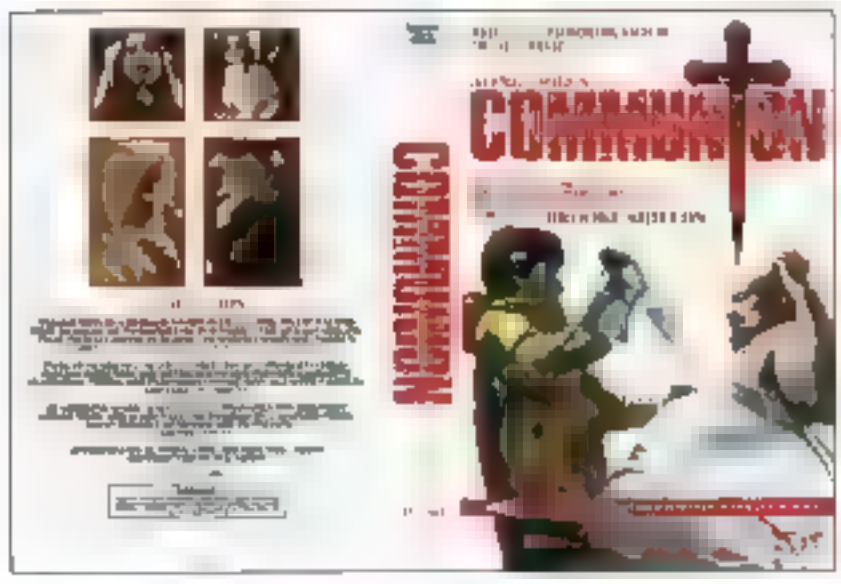
Director: **Alain Petit (as Allan W. Steave) / Julio Pérez Tabernero**
Country of Production: **France, Spain**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Terreur cannibale**, **Terror canibal**

Modern Films issued only eleven titles on UK video (they were distributed by Mountain Video) and this low-budget cannibal cash-in was one of their their very last, having been acquired as part of a package of movies from Paris-based licensor Eurocine, infamous producers of continental exploitation fare. The same directorial team was also responsible for **Brutes' Paradise, Women's Hell**, released on the EVC label as **Woman's Paradise or Hell**, a cut-and-paste effort that re-used footage from Jess Franco's **Barbed Wire Dolls** (released in the UK by VIPCO as **Caged Women**).

Solely due to its title, **Cannibal Terror** fell foul of the DPP and was for some time considered obscene, until it was eventually dropped from the list of successfully prosecuted titles.

The film re-surfaced on DVD in 2003 via International Trading's newly established Hardgore label, and was passed uncut by the BBFC. Interestingly, International Trading is owned by none other than Carey Budnick, who had previously set-up the VTC (Video Tape Center) video label back in the early 1980s.





THE CANNIBALS
Video Label: **European Video Corporation**
Catalogue Number: **EVC430**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **86m 14s**

Director: **Jess Franco**
Country of Production: **France**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Mondo cannibale**, **White Cannibal Queen**, **La dea cannibale**, **Barbarian Goddess**

Jess Franco's ridiculous cannibal caper was released on British video by no less than three competing companies, two of which were based on mainland Europe.

Cinehollywood were an Italian releasing company who distributed export versions of their titles via various international agents around the world. In the UK, seventy of their titles were released at the same time (November 1981) in a massive push for the label by Video Programme Distributors (VPD) who distributed tapes from their Wembley base under the directorship of Brian Payne.

European Video Corporation (EVC) were a Dutch company operating under the directorship of Crena Jitterwijk. They had a British office in Ashton-Under-Lyne, from which they distributed around 60 of their titles in the UK. As suggested by their name, EVC was a truly international set-up, and their tapes were typically released simultaneously in the UK, The Netherlands and Scandinavia.

A further British video release appeared in September 1983 on the obscure Serpent label, but this tape was best

avoided as it had been cut by around eight minutes - almost all of the missing footage consisted of slow-motion munching

The Cannibals, another title which was produced, and is owned, by Eurociné, has not at the time of writing been re-licensed for home video distribution

CATACLYSM
Video Label: **Video Unlimited**
Catalogue Number: **VUV043**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **88m 04s**

Director: **Tom McGowan, Greg Tallas & Philip Marshak**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **The Nightmare Never Ends**; **Satan's Supper**

Another popular rental title, **Cataclysm** could easily be found in most early '80s video stores. It may be surprising to discover that this one was never banned in the UK, even though it sported a fairly gratuitous and potentially offensive cover

Video Unlimited (based in Poole, Dorset) were another of the market leaders at the time, and were responsible for an impressive selection of approximately 100 video titles. Uncommonly, Video Unlimited not only published videos, but the company also ran a chain of four video libraries, three of which were based in the south of England and the fourth as far afield as Guernsey in the Channel Isles. Video Unlimited crashed with debts of approximately £200,000 in April 1984, only seven weeks after it had been taken over by independent distributors Video Brokers in a £250,000 deal involving the UK rights to 84 feature films, and the four retail outlets

Many of the old Video Unlimited titles were issued by Cyclo Video, but **Cataclysm** was not one of them, and it has since vanished from British shelves

One of the three credited directors, Philip Marshak, previously made the horror-porno feature **Dracula Sucks**, and scriptwriter Philip Yordan was an Oscar-winner for his work on **Broken Lance**! A drastically edited version of the movie later appeared as one of three episodes in the 1985 horror anthology **Night Train to Terror**, which was put together by Jay Schlossberg-Cohen. This curio also contained another cut-down feature called **Death Wish Club**, and the unfinished **Scream Your Head Off** (with **Diabolik** star John Phillip Law), all linked by scenes set on board the "Heavenly Express", where Satan debates the state of mankind with God! For those curious enough to experiment, this unfortunate but mind-boggling accident of a film is easily obtainable on DVD in America and Europe

CITY OF THE LIVING DEAD
Video Label: **Inter-Light**
Catalogue Number: **ILV109**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **87m 51s**

Director: **Lucio Fulci**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Paura nella città dei morti viventi**; **The Gates of Hell**

Lucio Fulci's acclaimed, though somewhat confusing, Lovecraftian zombie epic was released to British cinemas by Eagle Films at the end of 1981. It appeared on video just one year later, courtesy of Inter-Light

The video company played it safe by using the BBFC 'X' approved version as seen in the cinema, which drastically shortened a scene of graphic set-piece violence in which actor Giovanni Lombardo Radice has his head drilled through on a lathe. A woman literally throwing her guts up was left intact

A re-issue appeared on the Intervision label in 1983, and this proved to be a much nicer looking (but still cut) edition. One other Inter-Light title, the Antonio Margheriti war movie **The Last Hunter**, starring David Warbeck of another Lucio Fulci favourite, **The Beyond**, was also picked up for distribution by Intervision at the same time.

City of the Living Dead (which is better known in the USA as **The Gates of Hell**) is now available to buy on British DVD with all previous cuts waived

COMMUNION
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **P219D**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **August 1982**
Running Time: **102m 35s**

Director: **Alfred Sole**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Alice, Sweet Alice**; **Holy Terror**

Communion was picked up for UK theatrical distribution in 1977 by Herndale Pictures, which was initially set up as a production company by actor David Hemmings and producer John Daly. The film, which featured an eleven year-old Brooke Shields, was granted an uncut 'X' certificate for theatrical exhibition by the BBFC. **Communion** has a long history of being re-released, re-titled and re-cut, often in response to its young star's changing fortunes. For example when Brooke Shields became famous for her performance in **Pretty Baby** it was re-released in America in its original uncut form, but under the new title **Alice, Sweet Alice**. Then in 1981 it came out again in a cut form as **Holy Terror**

Luckily enough it was the uncut version ("Warning: This film contains explicit scenes of violent murder") that made it to British video a few years later, at the perfect time to cash-in on the success of Brooke Shields's then-recent cinema hits **The Blue Lagoon** and **Endless Love**

When a DVD was struck for the US, director Sole chose to go back and make some changes to his film. Many collectors therefore seek out this 1982 video release from VCL, which contains the original version of the movie

Alfred Sole now works primarily as a production designer, having not had the opportunity to direct a movie since 1982's **Pandemonium**

THE CONFESSIONAL MURDERS
Video Label: **RCA/Columbia Pictures**
Catalogue Number: **CVT10057**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **March 1983**
Running Time: **100m 03s**

Director: **Pete Walker**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **House of Mortal Sin**; **The Confessional**

Released to UK cinemas as **House of Mortal Sin**, cuts were required for its BBFC 'X' certificate. The uncut version of this transgressive horror thriller from the volatile partnership of writer David McGillivray and director Pete Walker made its way onto video eight years later as **The Confessional Murders**, and when submitted officially for its video re-release in March 1986, it was passed uncut.

Stephanie Beacham starred in this almost forgotten British gem from Pete Walker, and she became a big name after her roles in **The Colbys** and its follow-up, **Dynasty**. She would go on to appear in several other hit TV series, including **Beverly Hills, 90210** (1990) and **SeaQuest DSV** (1993).

Despite being a well-established industry major, the RCA/Columbia organisation were late starters in joining the home video revolution. Launched on the 21st of November 1982, the Silver Series was an attempt by the company to introduce a branded label to the marketplace. Other Silver Series titles of interest include **The Humanoid**, by **Late Night Trains** director Aldo Lado, early slasher movie **Happy Birthday To Me**, James Cameron's trashy debut **Piranha II: Flying Killers** and Brian De Palma's Hitchcock riff **Obsession**. Three Hammer titles also got the Silver Series treatment: **Creatures the World Forgot**, **Curse of the Mummy's Tomb** and **The Gorgon**.

RCA obviously had some problems adapting to the home video revolution, as demonstrated by the CED VideoDisc format fiasco, into which they sunk vast sums of money to no avail. The format was officially launched in October 1983, but by April 1984 RCA had already announced a 'phased withdrawal', presumably due to poor sales (they had rather optimistically aimed at selling 100,000 players and 1,000,000 discs in the first year!). 272 titles were released on the format before the plug was pulled.

THE CORPSE GRINDERS
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **C037C**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1982**
Running Time: **70m 12s**

Director: **Ted V. Mikels**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1971**

This was the partner-in-crime to Mikels's **Blood Orgy of the She-Devils**, and both tapes could be found in most video stores until the 1984 VRA crackdown. Though neither film was ever in any danger of overstepping the standards demanded by the BBFC for video classification, they serve as a perfect demonstration of the more insidious effect that the legislation had in its early years. Quite simply the circa-£1000 classification fee for video features made borderline commercial prospects such as these creaky old horror movies suddenly very much less attractive in an increasingly saturated marketplace. Without the blessing of a certificate a legitimate release was not possible, so these, along with countless hundreds of similarly marginal titles were sadly confined to video limbo.

VCL International BV were established in 1978 by Chartered Accountant Alan Judd, an entrepreneur who also owned London's Limelight Night Club for a short while. VCL had video distribution outlets in places as far afield as the UK, Holland and Australia. The British operation was under the control of Managing Director Steve Webber, and in 1985 the company was sold to the Virgin Group.

CRAZED
Video Label: **Ambassador (Derann)**
Catalogue Number: **V 2019C**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **82m 56s**

Director: **Richard Cassidy**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka: **Blood Shed**, **Slipping into Darkness**

Derann were releasing quite a few titles onto the rental market during the early 1980s, and in order to better manage their large catalogue they established several sub-labels. **Crazed**, along with ten other titles, appeared on the Ambassador Video label, which had the distinction of being distributed exclusively by the influential Rank organisation. Other Ambassador tapes included re-releases of **Night of the Big Heat**, **Island of Terror** and **Gappa, the Triphibian Monster**. The other Derann labels were named Crystal, Goldstar and Family Classics.

Crazed appeared in Britain during 1982, and was one of the more obscure titles to be issued by Derann. In fact, it hasn't been re-issued on either tape or DVD.

The unknown designer's distinctive style can also be seen on the other Ambassador release featured in this book - **Frankenstein Island**.

The only person involved with this movie who went on to greater things is composer Ron Ramin, who has since written the music for numerous TV movies and series.

CRIES IN THE NIGHT
Video Label: **Cream (Trailblazer)**
Catalogue Number: **CR1**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **88m 49s**

Director: **William Fruet**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Funeral Home**

Many of the companies that sprung up in Britain during the early 1980s video gold-rush issued a scant few titles before disappearing from sight for ever - as was the case with the incredibly obscure Cream label, which was in fact part of David Miller's Trailblazer set-up. Trailblazer managed to put out only four titles, and **Cries in the Night** was the first (and the only one of the four to carry the Cream logo).

Completists might like to know that in order to collect this company's entire catalogue they just need to add **Mating Season**, **The House Where Death Lives** and **The Psychotronic Man** (catalogue numbers CR2, CR3 and CR4 respectively) to their wants list.

Cries in the Night was directed by Canadian William Fruet, who is also known for his class-warfare/home-invasion shocker **Death Weekend**, and **Trapped** - both of which are also featured in this book - along with **Spasms** (1983), a horror film about a deadly snake that starred Oliver Reed and Peter Fonda. The film was issued in the UK by VTC in a very poorly-designed sleeve, and hence it is one of the few early 1980s Fruet movies to be missing from these pages.

DARK NIGHT OF THE SCARECROW
Video Label: **Video Unlimited**
Catalogue Number: **VUV034**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1981**
Running Time: **91m 38s**

Director: **Frank De Felitta**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**

One of the better TV movies of the early Eighties, it's quite surprising that **Dark Night of the Scarecrow** hasn't been issued on DVD. This is most likely due to it now being owned by a major studio (Fox).

Director Frank De Felitta is perhaps better known today as a writer, although he did go on to produce **Audrey Rose**. At the time of writing his latest credit is as writer on the Hideo (**Ring**) Nakata re-make of **The Entity**.

Sadly, this tape from Barry Goddard's Video Unlimited label is the only way of catching **Dark Night of the Scarecrow** - now considered a forgotten gem.

THE DEADLY SPAWN
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP050**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1983**
Running Time: **78m 01s**

Director: **Douglas McKeown**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka: **Return of the Aliens**, **The Deadly Spawn**

Another of VIPCO's seemingly ubiquitous titles, **The Deadly Spawn** really could be found in just about every video store across the country. Which isn't too bad, considering its extremely low-budget origins.

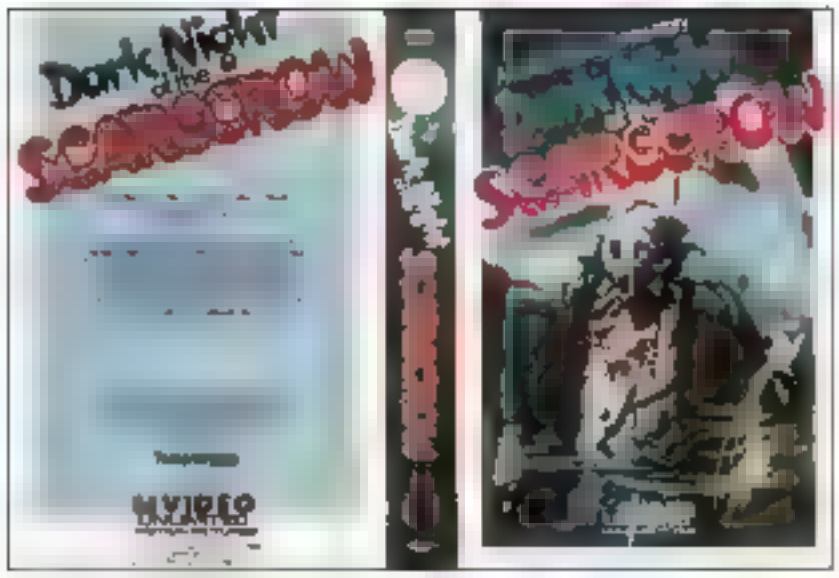
Its popularity was helped by an enthusiastic fan-base which developed quite quickly, and was also assisted by several write-ups in the genre press. **The Deadly Spawn** was also the recipient of yet another excellent trade press advertising campaign, with memorable catch-lines like "May The Spawn Be With You!" And who could resist a movie with such a unique and memorable cover? The film is perhaps best summed up by this rather memorable line of dialogue: "What... the FUCK was THAT?"

If you want to see this movie, there can be no better way than to check out the staggering American DVD release.

DEATH BED
Video Label: **Portland Films**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **73m 58s**

Director: **George Barry**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1977**
aka: **Death Bed: The Bed That Eats**

Death Bed is one of the most bizarre horror movies ever made. It was shot on 16mm over a five year period, but sadly



no one was willing to pay for a 35mm print to be struck, or indeed to take a chance on distributing the completed work.

As far as the movie's director George Barry was concerned, no one ever knew his film existed. You can probably imagine his surprise when, two decades later, he discovered that Portland had pirated his one and only feature film and released it on home video in the UK. The tape carried no credits except the film's title and a copyright notice in George Barry's name, because it was struck from an answer print that was not intended for public exhibition.

This unfortunate tale demonstrates just how chaotic and unregulated the industry was during its formative years. However, the irony is that without this illegal video release **Death Bed** would have remained unreleased, and would not have gained its minor cult following, which eventually led to its American DVD release. The film's long journey out of obscurity was finally completed with its theatrical premiere in San Francisco on the 15th of February 2003.

DEATH SHOCK
Video Label: **ADB**
Catalogue Number: **BED1**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **47m 10s**

Director: **Bill Wright**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1981**

A popular title which appeared in both horror and adult sections of many rental stores, this early shot on video effort (it was made in 1981) is credited to none other than Lindsay Honey, better known today as gonzo porn-video director Ben Dover. After some detective work, it appears that although Lindsay did work on the movie (he can be spotted in the 'It'll be all right on the bed' bloopers after the main feature), direction was actually handled by producer Bill Wright, aka Frank Thring, who has since directed and featured in more than 50 adult titles.

British glamour model Linzi Drew - the lady who was to become Lindsay Honey's wife - gets some serious screen time, as she is subjected to some rather half-hearted ritual satanic abuse (her breasts are massaged with stage-blood for a few minutes...).

The short-lived ADB label released Alfonso Brescia's **War of the Robots**, along with a selection of what appear to be Japanese children's animation tapes - the label's first ever releases were **Tales of La Mancha** (catalogue number ADB001), and **Fables of the Green Forest** (ADB002). When ADB took the surprising sideways lurch into the adult video market with **Death Shock**, they changed the catalogue number system from 'ADB' to 'BED'! Their one other adult title was **Miss Tease** (catalogue number BED2).

[redacted]
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP035**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **86m 06s**

Director: **Tobe Hooper**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Eaten Alive**; **Horror Hotel**; **Starlight Slaughter**

Censored for its 1978 cinema release and still incomplete for its notably early UK home video debut on the VCL label - it was in British rental stores in 1980 - it wasn't until VIPCO issued this 'Strong Uncut Version' in 1982 that fans could watch this one in all its gory glory. It was not long before this opportunity was taken away however, as no doubt largely due to its amazingly eye-catching cover, **Death Trap** very swiftly found itself hauled up in British courts and slotted uncomfortably into its place on the DPP banned list.

After several unsuccessful prosecution attempts though it was thankfully dropped from the list, but by this time it had become confined to video limbo, where it remained until the year 2000 when it was classified uncut by the BBFC for video release with an '18' rating.

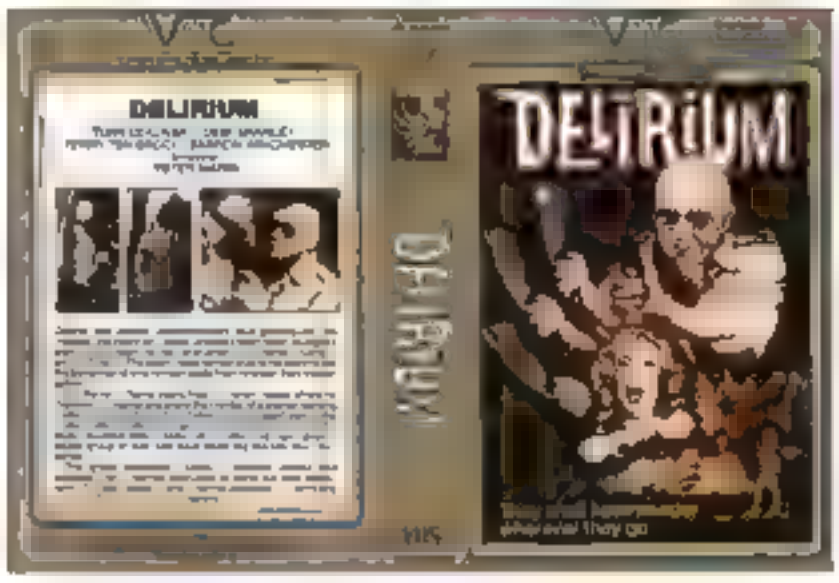
This outstanding effort by Tobe (**Texas Chain Saw Massacre**) Hooper is notable for featuring an early appearance by Robert England, who was destined to become immortalised as archetypal '80s horror icon Freddy Krueger. **Chain Saw** survivor Marilyn Burns is another member of the notably strong cast, which also features Neville Brand and Mel Ferrer.

DEATH WEEKEND
Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1025**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **84m 54s**

Director: **William Fruet**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **The House by the Lake**

Allegedly based on a true event that took place in Canada during the early Seventies, **Death Weekend** played UK cinemas in 1977, in a slightly censored version which was distributed by Brent Walker. In the US, it was sometimes double-billed with Wes Craven's infamous **Last House on the Left**, with the title changed to **The House by the Lake**.

This uncut video release appeared on collectors favourite Vampix label, and as was very often the case with British video releases during the early 1980s, the striking cover design is based upon a reproduction of the theatrical poster artwork. **Death Weekend** has unfortunately not been re-issued in the UK to date.



DEEP RIVER SAVAGES
Video Label: **Derann**
Catalogue Number: **FDV305**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **89m 25s**

Director: **Umberto Lenzi**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **Il paese del sesso selvaggio**, **Mondo Cannibale**, **Man from Deep River**

Originally rejected outright by the BBFC when submitted for theatrical release by Mark Associates back in 1975, this movie is responsible for unleashing the Italian cannibal movie genre. These films would continue to stretch the limits of acceptability over the course of the next ten years.

This uncut (but full-screen) version was issued by Derann in the winter of 1982 and the same master was used by 'Screen Classics' for an uncertificated British DVD release, which appeared in 2000

An official widescreen version was eventually issued to UK DVD by International Trading's Hardgore label at the end of 2003, with nearly four minutes of cuts and substitutions to the various scenes of animal cruelty. These cuts are required in compliance with the terms of the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937 and current BBFC Policy.

DELIRIUM
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1022**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **84m 29s**

Director: **Peter Maris**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Psycho Puppet**

Delirium was picked up as part of a larger package of titles by Video Tape Center (VTC), and was released simultaneously with three other interesting films, Mario Bava's **House of Exorcism** (actually the drastically re-edited **Lisa and the Devil**), violent western **Cain's Cut-Throats**, and **The Witch Who Came from the Sea**, which was destined to run into censorship problems

A real obscurity, this one was always going to be a hard-sell. Two different cover designs were produced as a result, and it wasn't until the start of its 18-month stay on the 'nasties' list that it began to be asked for in rental stores.

In 1987, it re-appeared on the British market as **Psycho Puppet**, after cuts totalling 16 seconds had been imposed before it could be granted an '18' rating. It's uncertain why Vidago took the decision to change the title of the film. Had it been left as **Delirium**, there might have been more interest in seeing this formerly banned movie, which remains unavailable on video or DVD to date. It is considered by some to have fallen into the realms of the 'Public Domain'

DEMENTED
Video Label: **Media Home Entertainment**
Catalogue Number: **M179**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **88m 02s**

Director: **Arthur Jeffreys**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**

Acquired by producer Sandy Cobe's Intercontinental Releasing Corporation for foreign sales, **Demented** was licensed to Charles Band's successful Media Home Entertainment label

This is a genuine oddity, directed by a man who never made another film, and starring porn superstar Harry Reems in a rare non-sex role.

Originally issued to UK video in an uncut version, when BBFC classification became a legal requirement it didn't fare so well, and as such required cuts of 1 minute 19 seconds for its eventual video re-issue by Apex Distribution in 1987 Rather surprisingly, **Demented** remains unavailable on video and DVD

DEMON
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1038**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **85m 44s**

Director: **Larry Cohen**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **God Told Me To**

Demon is an interesting thriller from auteur Larry Cohen, who in 1967 panned the excellent Sci-Fi series **The Invaders**, and went on to direct the highly-regarded **It's Alive!** This was another title VTC issued with two different cover designs, a relatively common practice at the time (hence this book's alternative covers section at the back) and also demonstrated with VTC's releases of **Delirium** and **Possession**

Made under the title **God Told Me To**, the film was initially released in America by New World Pictures only to be greeted by opposition from some drive-ins, and from reactionary types in the advertising business. Despite the irrational nature of this threat to the film's commercial chances, it was quietly withdrawn from circulation for a while, retitled **Demon** in 1976, and re-released to modest success.

Over the years the film has attained a healthy cult following, due in part to the growing stature of its director Cohen would go on to make **Q - The Winged Serpent**, one of the great low-budget American monster movies, before firmly cementing his reputation as a top Hollywood screenwriter, recently penning blockbusters like **Phone Booth** (2002), **Cellular** (2004) and **Captivity** (2004)

This important early film was finally made available on American DVD in 2004 - under the **God Told Me To** moniker

THE DEVIL
Video Label: **FilmTown**
Catalogue Number: **FT05**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1983**
Running Time: **89m 19s**

Director: **Percival Rubens**
Country of Production: **South Africa**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **The Night Caller**

This South African movie was made with that country's strict censorship restrictions in place. However, some topless nudity was required to assist sales to foreign countries, where this is considered a must for exploitation and horror movies. It's ironic then that the FilmTown release didn't feature any of those nude shots, and instead focuses more on the horror aspect of the movie

FilmTown (whose name was in part derived from the name of its Managing Director Jocelyn Towns) were distributed by the ubiquitous VideoSpace, a major player in

the early '80s video business, who were run by the partnership of Tony Haise and David Willoughby

The Demon was made by a production company that operated under the name 'Holland' which some people have mis-read as 'Holland', in the process jumping to the conclusion that it was a Dutch co-production!

THE DEMONS
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **A102**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **79m 28s**

Director: **Jess Franco (as Clifford Brown)**
Country of Production: **France, Portugal**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **Les demons, Los demonios Die Nonnen von Clichy Le demone**

Banned by the BBFC when originally submitted for theatrical release by Cinecenta in 1972, but granted a local London GLC 'X' certificate, this is another **Witchfinder General** witch-hunt cash-in which attempts to deliver the goods in its many torture scenes.

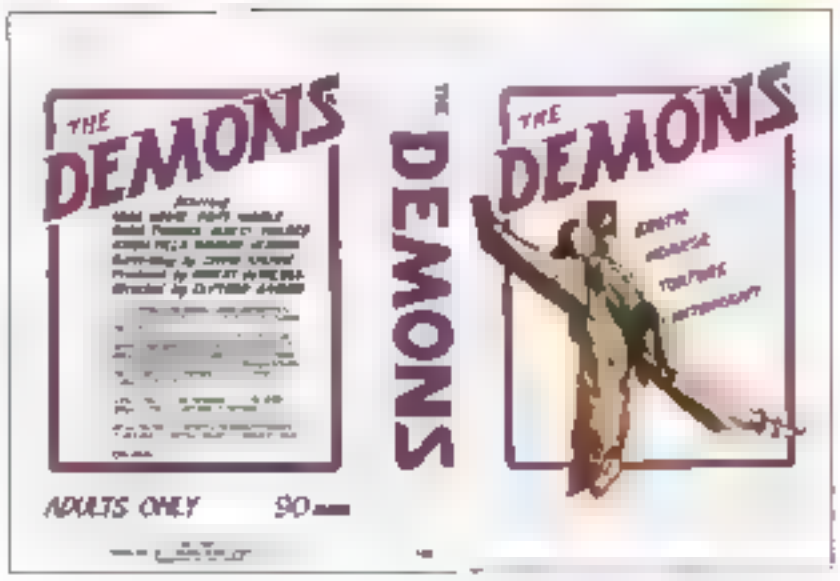
Numerous versions of **The Demons** were completed, with footage tailored for each country's censorship requirements. This video release features the shorter of the many variants which were prepared, and it's this version which appears to have been issued in many English-speaking countries.

Go Video's release of **The Demons** was packaged with two distinct covers. The first featured the crucifix design which many collectors favour due to its more lurid eye-catching illustration. The later release was the more easily found of the two, although both are now quite rare

The Go Video label operated under the control of Des Dolan, who managed his operations from Wardour Street in London's Soho district. He can be spotted in the 1984 Santa slasher flick **Don't Open Till Christmas**

THE DEVIL HUNTER
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **V1590**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **85m 23s**

Director: **Jess Franco (as Clifford Brown)**
Country of Production: **Spain, France, West Germany**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Sexo canibal; Il cacciatore di uomini; Jungfrau unter Kannibalen; Man Hunter; Chasseurs d'hommes**



ıssued on the Cinehollywood label in November 1981, **The Devil Hunter** was extensively advertised on the front pages of the video trade press. Despite this, the film never performed particularly well in the marketplace (it is one of the rarest tapes in Britain). However, the video was singled out for prosecution due to its cannibalism scenes, and after several successful cases it found its way onto the DPP's banned list

The Devil Hunter is now one of the most sought-after of the 'video nasties', and has been known to command figures in excess of £300 among collectors

At the time of writing **The Devil Hunter** is not available on Video or DVD although a German language DVD did appear for a short time, under the title **Jungfrau unter Kannibalen**.

DIE SISTER, DIE!
Video Label: **Video Form**
Catalogue Number: **MGT01**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **March 1982**
Running Time: **81m 00s**

Director: **Randall Hood**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **The Companion**

Video Form began by issuing a number of relatively unknown horror and exploitation movies, and **Die Sister, Die!** was their very first release.

The fantastically lurid cover art features the original American poster, which appears to be inspired by Roman Polanski's **Repulsion**, or perhaps even Jean Cocteau's **La belle et la bête**. Whatever, this very average film, which plays like a late night TV movie, isn't able to deliver the goods as promised by the cover.

After starting up in June 1981 as 'Video Form Pictures', the label later registered the name 'Videoform' as a trademark before being taken over by Heron. The Video Form brand finally disappeared altogether in the late 1980s.

DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE!
Video Label: **Jaguar**
Catalogue Number: **XF132**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1981**
Running Time: **89m 32s**

Director: **Robert Hammer**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **The Hollywood Strangler**

This low-budget stalk-and-slash movie was produced in response to the 1970s vogue for psycho Vietnam vet films. Despite the script's attempts to get inside the killer's head and indulge in some cod psychology, this film is ultimately memorable for its scuzzy deadbeat atmosphere, nasty strangulation murder setpieces and a pungent stench of misogyny.

The Jaguar release of **Don't Answer the Phone!** was the cut BBFC 'X'-rated version, running 89 minutes 32 seconds.

It was released uncut on the Media label in both Holland and the USA, but ironically the American Rhino DVD release in 2000 was an abomination, only running 85 minutes 13 seconds, which taking the 4% longer running time of NTSC format tapes means that it was missing over 9 minutes of footage! So much for progress.

The strangler was played by Nicholas Worth, who has had a thirty-year career playing supporting roles in minor movies, so this must be considered something of a career highlight, amazingly enough. Director Robert Hammer never made another film.

DON'T GO IN THE HOUSE
Video Label: **Arcade**
Catalogue Number: **AV007**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **79m 01s**

Director: **Joseph Ellison**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**

Filmed as **The Burning**, a title change was imposed when it was discovered that an American company (actually future mega-corp Miramax!) was making a movie of the same name. This particularly nasty piece of work was issued in both cut and uncut versions by Arcade Video, who were distributed by VideoSpace. (ncidentally, Arcade's managing director was Jocelyn Towns, also MD of another VideoSpace-distributed label, FilmTown)

Don't Go in the House was first seen in Britain at selected cinemas, after having undergone the required cuts needed in order for it to be granted an 'X' rating It was this version that made its debut on video, but it was quickly followed by the uncensored version. When Arcade realised that the video industry was more or less in an unregulated state, the more extreme version was issued to satisfy rental stores' demands.

The re-release of **Don't Go in the House** was advertised in the trade press with the clunky ad-line "Uncensored version of X cert movie" and the prophetic "Now. A real nasty' from Arcade Video" It did not take long for the film to join the expanding video nasties list, but it was off the list for good by the spring of 1984 In this instance the BBFC had managed to satisfy the DPP that because a cut BBFC-approved version had also been released, this title should no longer be considered a nasty', as VideoSpace had made a specific guarantee to the BBFC that they would no longer distribute the uncut version of the film on videotape

When **Don't Go In the House** was finally submitted for an official BBFC video certificate by Apex Distribution in 1987, over three minutes of cuts were required before it was granted an '18 rating

DON'T GO IN THE WOODS... ALONE!
Video Label: **Video Releasing Organization**
Catalogue Number: **VN0012**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **March 1982**
Running Time: **78m 15s**

Director: **James Bryan**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Don't Go In the Woods**

Another low budget splatter movie which ended up on the banned list, **Don't Go In the Woods... Alone!** was made to cash-in on movies like **Friday the 13th**, and in doing so the makers attempted to take the gore quota to a new level

Since it was promoted to banned list status it has become a collectable tape, regardless of the quality of the film itself, which remains otherwise unavailable to date

Director James Bryan last made a movie way back in 1985 Entitled **Lady Streetfighter** it was actually a shot on video affair

The deranged theme song, which plays like a warped rendition of The Teddy Bears Picnic, was composed by H Kingsley Thurber, who also wrote the music for **Frozen Scream**. It goes like this
"Don't go out in the woods tonight or you probably will be thrilled.
Don't go out in the woods tonight or you probably will be killed.
There's a friendly beast who lurks about,
And likes to feast. You won't get out!
(Without being killed and chopped up in little pieces.)"

DON'T GO NEAR THE PARK
Video Label: **Home Video Productions**
Catalogue Number: **A-AE0429**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **80m 00s**

Director: **Lawrence D Foldes**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Nightstalker**; **Curse of the Living Dead**; **Sanctuary for Evil**

Four movies with **Don't...** in the title found their way onto the banned lists. A degree of common sense prevailed however, and the list was constantly revised, meaning that most were eventually dropped like this one. Basically any movie which contained scenes of cannibalism - no matter how fake looking - was at the time considered liable for prosecution

Don't Go Near the Park was distributed by Intervision, and was one of eight titles issued during the short-lived collaboration between the distribution department of Intervision and the Home Video Productions label Another of the films that made up part of this deal was **The Jekyll and Hyde Portfolio**, which was due to be issued in exactly the same sleazily slip-shod packaging style, and was particularly notable for being graced by one of the most shockingly debased cover images in the history of the video industry. This video never made it into British stores however, for reasons that remain obscure to this day. For more information about this bizarre footnote in the history of pre-VRA releases, turn to the alternative covers section at the back of the book

As for **Don't Go Near the Park** itself, apart from its tenure on the DPP's video nasty list, this extremely incompetent and minor film is of interest only for featuring an early appearance by scream queen Linnea Quigley

DON'T LOOK IN THE BASEMENT
Video Label: **Crystal (Derann)**
Catalogue Number: **FCV604**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **20 February 1983**
Running Time: **78m 43s**

Director: **S.F. Brownrigg**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **The Forgotten**

It's hard to believe that this low budget oddity was actually distributed to British cinemas by a major studio, but that is exactly what happened when it was acquired by Columbia-Warner Cut by the BBFC for an 'X' rating in 1977 it enjoyed a brief theatrical run before vanishing for six years. When

Derann's tape appeared in 1983, the film was even shorter than the version that had screened at the cinema. It is now believed that this video release actually contains a truncated-for-TV print. A much more complete edition is now available on DVD in America

In common with many tapes released during the early years of the video boom in Britain, **Don't Look in the Basement** was first offered to the industry at a trade event in this case The Video Software Show, held at the Heathrow Penta Hotel from the 20th to 22nd of February 1983. During the early years of video, new releases were often promoted using ridiculous stunts, as was the case with this tape, when "Derann's pretty nurses Suzy and Fiona" were left in charge of the trade fair stall

DRACULA V FRANKENSTEIN
Video Label: **Rainbow**
Catalogue Number: **MVT2014**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **March 1982**
Running Time: **86m 53s**

Director: **Al Adamson**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **Dracula vs. Frankenstein**; **Revenge of Dracula**. **Blood of Frankenstein**

Considering that this was, after all, just a piece of Z-grade trash, it was surprising how many video stores carried it for rental. Must be the power of attractive packaging again.

Rainbow Video (actually Vertex Video in York) were distributed by London-based Mountain Video, and their low dealer price really helped them to shift larger numbers of tapes. In particular their horror titles were very popular with rental stores. Rainbow issued just over a dozen titles, and it certainly was an eclectic mixture of horror, adult and children's programming.

Back in 1973 **Dracula v Frankenstein** was actually seen in UK cinemas. It also enjoyed a video re-issue on Diamond Films (as **Revenge of Dracula**) in 1987, and is now available on DVD

Director Al Adamson specialised in particularly trashy drive-in fare like this, and was also responsible for a trilogy of "madmen on motorcycles" movies: **Satan's Sadists, Hell's Bloody Devils** and **Angels' Wild Women**.

THE DRILLER KILLER
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1982**
Running Time: **85m 10s**

Director: **Abel Ferrara**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**

The Driller Killer was one of the most notorious of all the video nasties. VIPCO's choice of cover illustration might have helped with video sales and rentals but it certainly didn't help matters as far as Britain's tabloid press were concerned. When questions were raised in Parliament about the 'videograms' being offered to the general public, this one was amongst the elite group of titles highlighted as the prime

examples of the way in which the video industry was threatening the moral health of the British people.

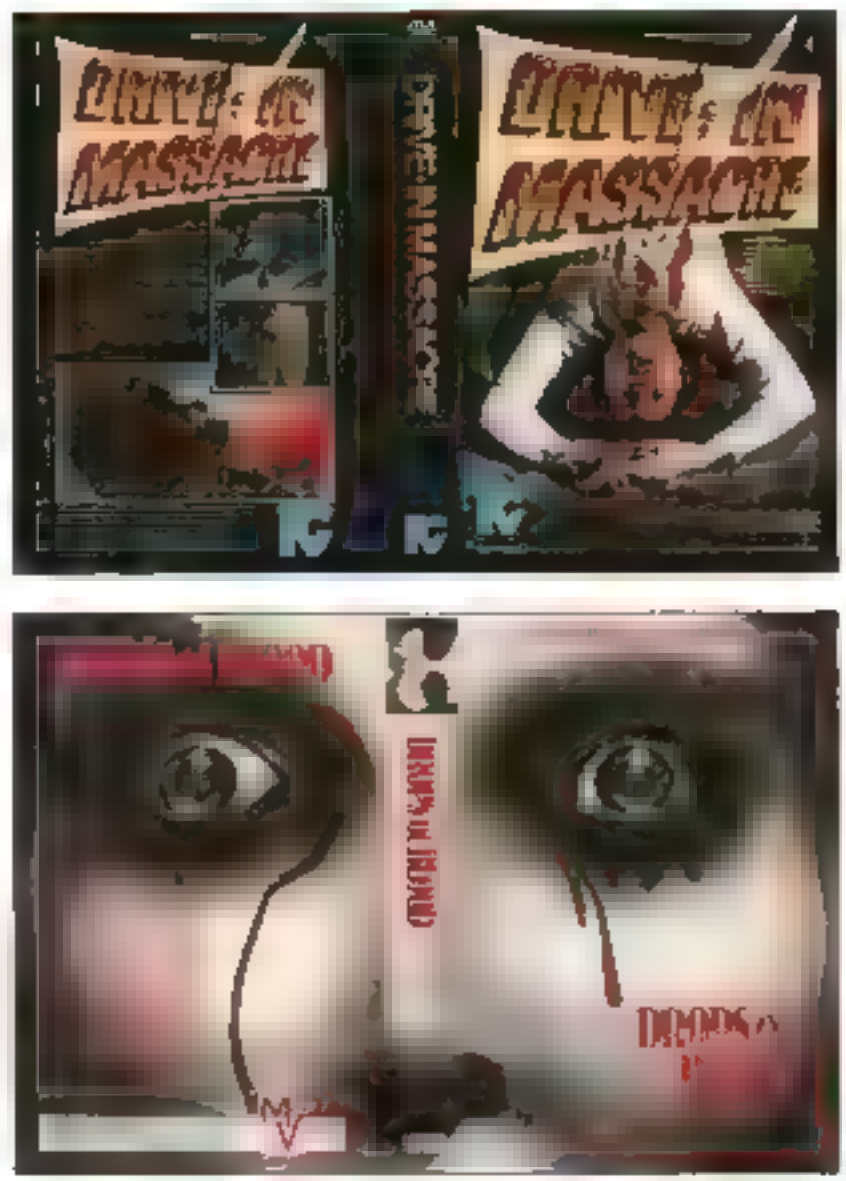
When it was eventually passed to the BBFC for video classification by Visual Entertainment in 2000, they had already pre-cut it by nearly a minute under out-dated guidance from the board's former director, the notoriously sensitive James Ferman. When re-submitted in 2002, this time by ILC Prime, the film was finally passed fully uncut, in accordance with new standards set in response to the BBFC's public consultation exercises; fundamentally, if there are no scenes of sexual violence or animal cruelty, then there's no longer usually a problem gaining an uncut BBFC certificate

DRIVE-IN MASSACRE
Video Label: **LRV**
Catalogue Number: **LRV101**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **71m 01s**

Director: **Stuart Segall**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1976**

Once considered by some collectors to be just a rumour, this is an extremely hard to find tape. LRV was most likely an offshoot of Mike Lee's VIPCO label, and it's unclear as to why just this one title was issued. VIPCO later re-issued **Drive-In Massacre** with a BBFC '18' rating, passed with no cuts in 1993

Director Stuart Segall now works as a producer, having worked almost exclusively in TV since 1990. He started his career working under the pseudonym Godfrey Daniels, producing a string of adult movies including the S&M classic **The Defiance of Good** (directed by Armand Weston, director of **The Nesting**, which is featured in this book) and later directing the blockbuster **Insatiable**, which starred Marilyn Chambers, and is now established as one of the biggest-grossing adult features of all time



DROPS OF BLOOD
Video Label: **Market**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1984**
Running Time: **82m 02s**

Director: **Giorgio Ferroni**
Country of Production: **Italy, France**
Year of Production: **1960**
aka. Il mulino delle donne di pietra, Le moulin des supplices, Mill of the Stone Women

This euro-cult favourite better known as **Mill of the Stone Women**, first appeared on British shores back in 1963 and was theatrically distributed by E.J. Fancey Productions. It seems most 'X'-rated films of this period were censored, for whatever reasons

Fast-forward twenty years, and the same censored print (with a brown tint indicating how badly it had been stored) appeared on the rental market courtesy of Peckham Rye-based Market Video. This company was set up in August 1983 by Mike Shepherd (formerly of Surrey Video) and Jim Briggs. Market was promoted as being a 'specialist cut-price

software distributor', and announced a catalogue of 48 titles at the Video Software Show in September 1983 at less than £9 each (plus VAT). Later that year they toured the country to hawk their wares, with the assistance of Mike Behr from Astra Video. By February 1984 they were distributing more than 170 titles.

Drops of Blood had also been released by the extremely obscure Triangle label, and it seems very likely that Market used their master for this much-more attractively packaged edition. Then in 1987 AVR Home Entertainment issued the same version again, but this time the BBFC granted the movie a '15' certificate

A gorgeous DVD finally surfaced in America under the **'Mill of the Stone Women'** title

THE DUNWICH HORROR
Video Label: **Guild**
Catalogue Number: **GH112**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1982**
Running Time: **83m 54s**

Director: **Daniel Haller**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1969**

This fun AIP production played the British cinema circuit in 1970, with some cuts, and benefitted from decent distribution by Anglo Amalgamated

Guild Home Video began issuing movies back in the very early days of the home video boom, and signed a significant distribution deal which enabled them to make a large number of AIP (American International Pictures) titles available in the UK. These included most of Roger Corman's classic horror movies. In all, they issued over 400 titles before the introduction of the Video Recordings Act, and they carried on releasing movies right up until they became Pathé Distribution

Guild's early '80s tapes are well-liked by collectors due to their unique packaging design. All Guild tapes came in very handsomely embossed cases, with the company logo imprinted on the inside front of the video box itself. These cases had another, rather bizarre, distinguishing feature in that the transparent plastic pocket on the box actually opened at the bottom instead of the top, which gave the whole package a slightly befuddling back-to-front/upside-down feel

E.T.n. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NASTIE
Video Label: **Dariton**
Catalogue Number: **GF570**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **20 February 1983**
Running Time: **64m 57s**

Director: **James A. Sullivan**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1968**
aka: **Nightfright**

This one has a curious story behind it. Steven Spielberg's **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial** was unavailable on home video and was the most requested (and pirated) movie of the time. David Hamilton-Grant thought he'd try the ultimate marketing ploy. He re-titled this old late Sixties B-movie and issued it with a cover that bore more than a passing resemblance to that of **E.T.**'s poster campaign.

This was all done as a bit of a joke which unfortunately backfired when Universal International Pictures threatened legal action. The **E.T.n.** videotapes were hastily withdrawn and new cover art was printed up so the tape could be re-issued. The rather cheeky title was however allowed to remain.

This video did end up facing legal action however, when it was submitted as a sample title in a DPP case, but was cleared, as reported in issue 28 of *Video Retailer* Nov 24th 1983. "A dealer in Leicester has been found guilty under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act for possessing **SS Experiment Camp, Bloody Moon**, and **Last House on the Left** and fined £1000. Stephen Sheasby of CB Video said after the court appearance on November 18, "I was surprised that the other five titles were returned. These were **Human Experiments, Zombie Flesh Eaters, City of the Living Dead ETN** and **The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.**"

Spielberg's **E.T** was not made available on the British video rental market until the end of 1988, the same year that **Nightfright** finally appeared in stores under its correct title

David Hamilton-Grant's World of Video 2000 acted as the exclusive distributor of this tape, one of approximately eighty titles they handled during the pre-VRA era. WOV 2000 launched with the 'French Label' in December 1981. Their first four releases were all German sex comedies (Sigi Rothemund's **Julia**, Hubert Frank's **Sex Fever**, F.J. Gottlieb's **Sex at 7000 Feet** and **Young Bedmates** by Walter Boos), so it's anyone's guess where the 'French Label' moniker came from!

EATEN ALIVE
Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1022**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **81m 44s**

Director: **Umberto Lenzi**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Mangiati vivi! The Emerald Jungle, Doomed to Die**

When **Eaten Alive** was issued on Videomedia's Vampix horror label in 1982, a lot of gore fans had hoped that the uncensored version might be released. Videomedia liked to play things safe however, and instead opted to issue the original cinema version, which had been cut by nearly six minutes for Eagle Films's previous theatrical release

Despite its cannibalism theme - and an extremely disturbing cover image - **Eaten Alive** remarkably never joined the other Italian cannibal films on the banned list, in fact there are no records of it even being considered for prosecution

Barry Jacobs, who ran Eagle Films, was able to re-license the movie in 1987 for his newly formed Elephant label, and it was he who applied to the BBFC for video certification. However, even though the original 'X'-rated version was submitted, a further one second of footage had to be removed before the Board agreed to grant the video an '18' certificate.

Even later, in 1992 when VIPCO had acquired the rights to the movie, it was cut to match the original theatrical 'X'-rated version. It was passed with an '18' rating.

EVILDEAD
Video Label: **Mountain**
Catalogue Number: **VCF 2/017**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1980**
Running Time: **78m 41s**

Director: **Jack Woods**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1969**
aka: **The Beast**

This low budget affair was released to British cinemas by Ember Films in 1971 with a BBFC 'X' certificate. Mountain Video issued it nine years later (it was one of the company's earliest releases), with hilarious cover art that makes it look like a children's fantasy movie. Another video release appeared in March 1982 on the KM label.

The film was originally a 16mm student film directed by Dennis Muren. A distributor then paid for extra footage to be shot by Jack Woods (who ended up with the official director's credit), and blew the result up to 35mm for cinema release.

Special effects were also handled by the uncredited Muren, who now works for industry powerhouse Industrial Light & Magic (ILM), and is widely respected as being one of Hollywood's top Visual Effects Supervisors.

Rumours persist that this movie was a major influence on Sam Raimi's **The Evil Dead**, but these are just that - rumours - as Sam claims never to have seen the movie, although there are some passing similarities.

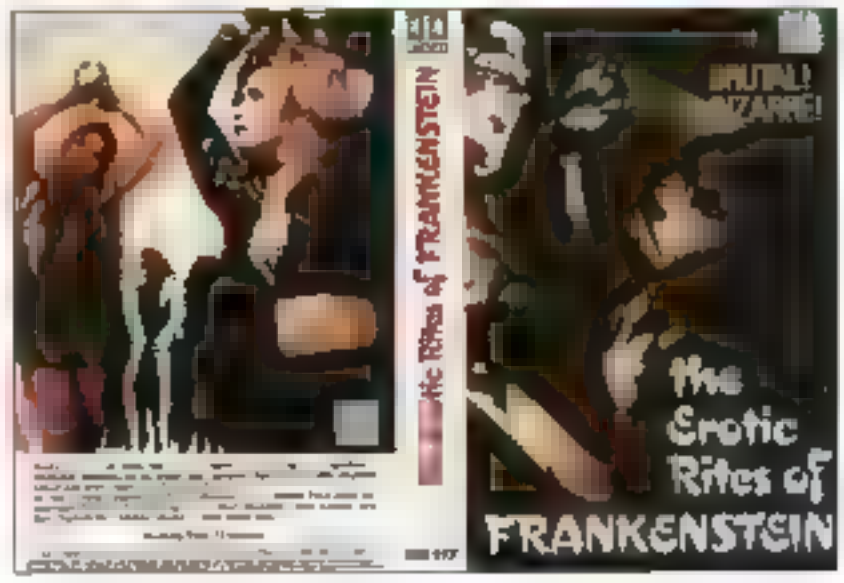
THE EROTIC RITES OF FRANKENSTEIN
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO117**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **70m 48s**

Director: **Jess Franco**
Country of Production: **Spain, France**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **La maldición de Frankenstein**, **La malédiction de Frankenstein**; **Les expériences érotique de Frankenstein**; **The Curse of Frankenstein**

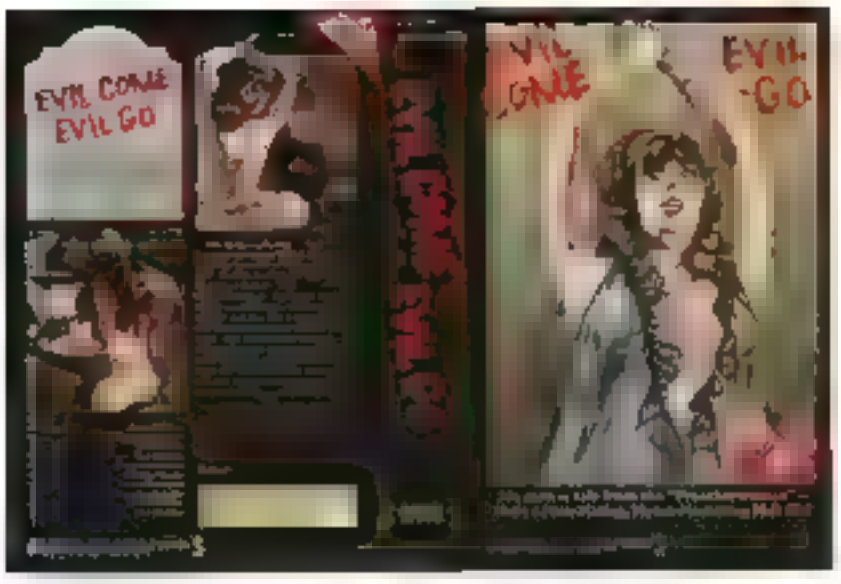
Go Video certainly knew how to pick them. They were able to license some eclectic packages of movies from Continental Europe, one of which featured several titles from Robert D. Nesle's CFFP (Comptoir Française du Film Productions) library in Paris.

This was the first time that **The Erotic Rites of Frankenstein** had been seen in Britain, and it features the version with extra nudity, which was intended to play in European cinemas.

A great DVD of this film was issued in Germany during 2004, in anamorphic widescreen no less. How times have changed for Jess Franco. His work was once confined to the video ghetto, but now the same films get five star treatment.



EVIL COME EVIL GO
Video Label: **Mercury**
Catalogue Number: **MVL002**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1983**
Running Time: **66m 16s**



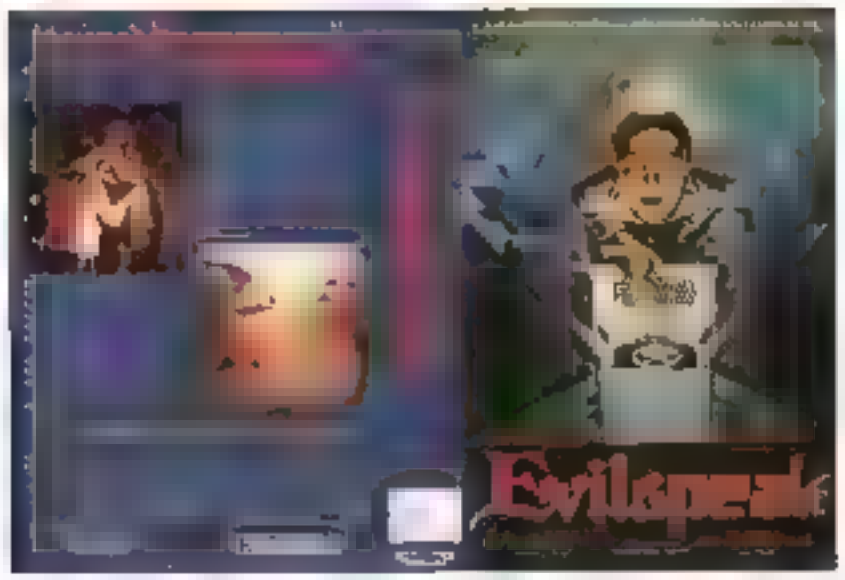
Director **Walt Davis**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka. **Preacher Woman**

How this title ended up on UK video is anybody's guess Mercury were another of those video companies that sprang up out of nowhere, issued a handful of titles and then promptly disappeared into the ether The company was set up by Geoff Grimes, former operations director at Warner Home Video and consultant to Worldwide Entertainment

Evil Come Evil Go is an interesting oddity, mainly because of its director Walt Davis, who had previously made one of the most twisted, perverse and downright unreleasable adult movies of all time - **Sex Psycho**, filmed in 1970 and also known as **Widow Blue** In its own ramshackle way, it was quite a pioneering effort, being a very early XXX porno/horror cross-over, which featured the hard-working John Holmes. Anyone who has not seen it will probably have some difficulty imagining the levels of depravity explored by that film

Evil Come Evil Go is certainly less explicit, but no less unhinged. This memorable tale of religious fanaticism blessed with some wonderful passages of ripe dialogue, also starred porn superstar John Holmes, this time in a rare softcore role. The film is currently unavailable in the UK and is very likely to remain so.

THE EVIL DEAD
Video Label: **Palace**
Catalogue Number: **PVC2018A**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **24 February 1983**
Running Time: **80m 49s**

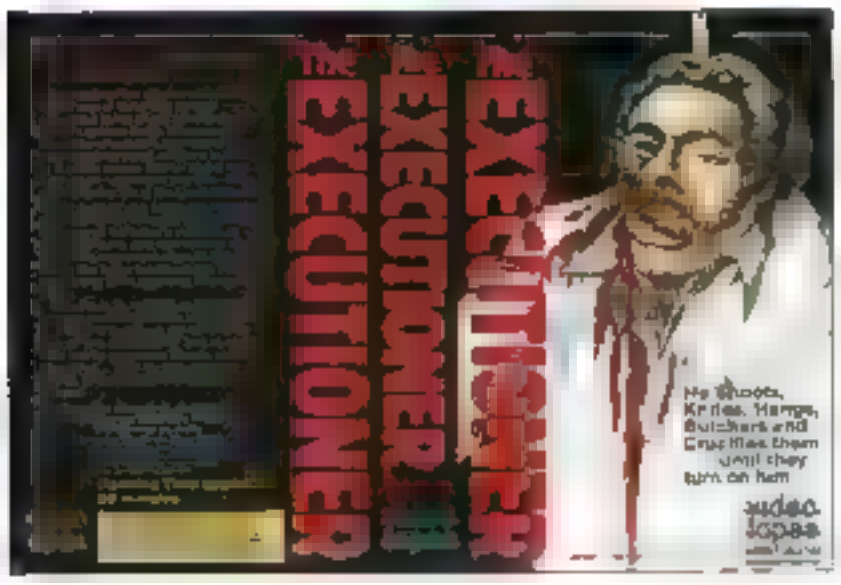


Director: **Sam Raimi**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**

If there's one title that sums up the whole nasties debacle then **The Evil Dead** must surely be it. Having being classified with a BBFC 'X' certificate - after 49 seconds of cuts - in 1982, Palace Pictures gave the film a theatrical 'test run' in Scotland, where they spent an estimated £15,000 on marketing, which included twelve 30-second spots on local TV The fledgling company then audaciously unleashed the video onto the rental market simultaneously with the film's roll-out in cinemas across Britain, having delayed its London release by a week. **The Evil Dead** exploded into the British public's consciousness on 24 February 1983, and became an instant smash hit, having shifted an astonishing total of more than 10,000 copies in pre-release sales!

More than likely because of its run-away popularity the video was one of the most heavily picked-upon titles targeted by the various clean-up campaigners, and was soon being found to be obscene in courts up and down the country - even though this was the BBFC approved version Things were clearly amiss, but as a result of this pressure the film slipped into video limbo in Britain for the best part of a decade

When Palace re-submitted **The Evil Dead** for an official video certificate eight years later, such was the stink caused by the movie's first release that further cuts were requested in particular to the 'tree rape' sequence. In total 23 new cuts were imposed, reducing the running time by a further 66 seconds. The BBFC insisted that this heavy-handed



approach was necessary in order to avoid more problems with the DPP. Sanse finally prevailed when it was submitted for a third time in 2001 and an uncut video release could at last be watched in the safety of British viewers' homes

EVILSPEAK
Video Label: **FilmTown**
Catalogue Number: **FT02**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **August 1983**
Running Time: **99m 53s**

Director: **Eric Weston**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**

A particular favourite of Church of Satan founder Anton LaVey **Evilspeak** was issued on video by FilmTown via their distribution deal with VideoSpace in two versions, the uncensored edition appearing first in video rental stores. When the moral panic of the nasties furore began to take hold, many distributors began to recall their uncut versions, and in a state of panic and court appearances, replaced them with versions they had self-censored, as was the case with this film. There was no way to tell the two apart though, so both versions were eventually removed from the shelves anyway.

Evilspeak remained on the DPP's nasties list right up to the end and when Apex Distribution acquired it in 1987, over three and a half minutes of cuts were requested by the BBFC. When the full uncut version was eventually submitted for its current DVD release by Anchor Bay Entertainment, all previous cuts were waived.

THE EXECUTIONER
Video Label: **Video Tapes International**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **B g Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **79m 04s**

Director: **Duke Mitchell**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Like Father, Like Son Massacre Mafia Style**

This hilariously outrageous attempt at a **Godfather** cash-in may well fail to deliver on a technical level, but it sure manages to succeed from an exploitation movie viewpoint. **The Executioner** was Mitchell's one and only directorial effort. In fact it appears to have been something of a labour of love for the former actor, as he also wrote the script, produced the film and even composed the score! Remarkable then that it is such an effective, if minor, gangland thriller, which has built up something of a low-key cult following. Mitchell, who died just a few years after making this movie, was honoured to have acted alongside Bela Lugosi, even though it was in one of the no-budget B-movies that typified the decline of the great man's career - 1952's dreadful **Bela Lugosi Meets a Brooklyn Gorilla**!

An alternate release appeared on the Hello label but this one wins hands-down for its cover art. It was subsequently classified for video release by Trans Global Pictures in 1987.

The Executioner (which was actually made under the title **Like Father, Like Son**) has not yet made its way onto the DVD format, although it appears that US-based Grindhouse Releasing may own the rights to the film, as a trailer for it appears on their DVD of **I Drink Your Blood** under the title **Massacre Mafia Style**.

The extremely obscure Video Tapes International company are notable for having released legendary exploitation film **Ilsa, Harem Keeper of the Oil Sheiks** in the UK, complete with Arabic script on the cover in an apparent attempt to disguise its UK mainland origin! This rare tape unfortunately contained a heavily censored version of the film.

EXORCISM
Video Label: **Canon**
Catalogue Number: **CV008**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1982**
Running Time: **85m 50s**

Director: **Juan Bosch (as Joan Bosch)**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **Exorcismo**

Acquired by Canon as part of a package of European movies, **Exorcism** is an atmospheric horror effort starring the king of Spanish horror, Paul Naschy. Despite the film's Spanish provenance, all of the exterior location work was actually shot in the UK, but it was never granted a British cinema release. This video therefore marked its debut in Britain, but the number of tapes produced was low, and it soon became a very scarce item.

In the film Naschy plays a priest who comes to the aid of a single mother whose daughter has apparently become possessed... a plotline which by the mid-70s was becoming all too familiar to horror movie fans. Despite being released just two years after **The Exorcist** exploded onto the horror movie scene however, writer Naschy denies any influence, claiming that his script had been written before its lauded contemporary.

EXPOSE
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-AE0201**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **1979**
Running Time: **80m 16s**

Director: **James Kenelm Clarke**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **The House on Straw Hill; Trauma**

The only British movie to make its way onto the DPP's nasties list, **Exposé** had six years previously been seen in British cinemas courtesy of Target International, who were ordered by the BBFC to make cuts before allowing it to play.

This very early video release on Mike Terrer and Richard Cooper's Intervision label re-instated the cut scenes, and was successful enough to be issued more than once, as it could also be found with the on-screen title **The House on Straw Hill**.

When submitted for a video release by Blue Dolphin in 1997, almost a minute of cuts were still requested, and it's this same censored version that's available on DVD from Odyssey Video in British stores today.

FACES OF DEATH
Video Label: **Atlantis Video Productions**
Catalogue Number: **AVP601**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **7 September 1982**
Running Time: **77m 56s**

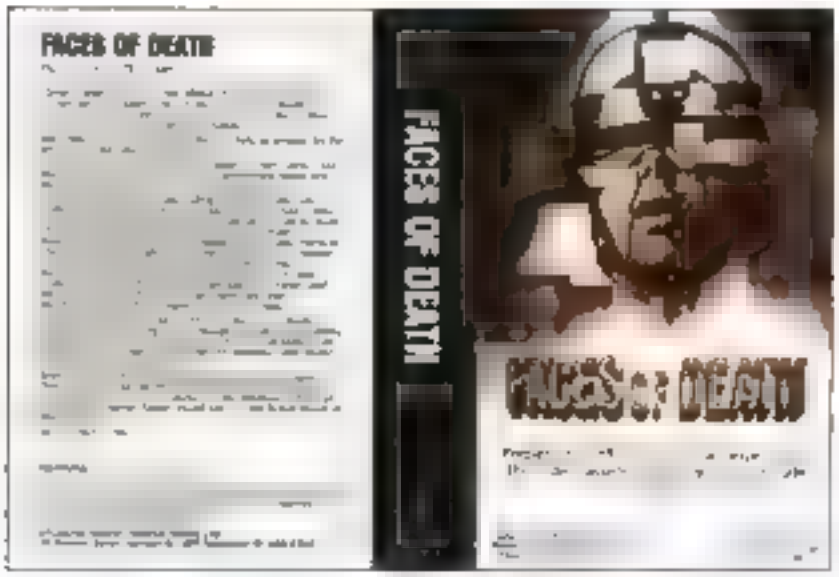
Director: **John Alan Schwartz (as Conan Le Cilaire)**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**

A definite villain in the pantheon of the video nasty, **Faces of Death** is more responsible than most of its contemporaries for instigating complaints to Parliament in the UK. This shocker known to fans as a 'Mondo Movie' (after the first film of its type, 1963's **Mondo Cane**) is strictly for those viewers who like to watch 'actual' scenes of death. Well, that's the idea anyway, because in fact most of the scenes in this film were faked although the autopsy footage and a few newsreel clips of accidents are indeed real.

Even though this UK release had been shorn of 32 minutes 32 seconds of gruesome footage (a big chunk of the film is simply missing about half-way through!) it still managed to upset enough viewers to get onto the banned list, where it became a permanent fixture. Before being banned however this video had - perhaps unsurprisingly - made a very healthy profit for Atlantis, who were run by the team of Roger Coghill Martin Hubner and Simon Jones. **Faces of Death** was not their only run-in with the authorities, as Atlantis also released **Nightmare Maker** just six months later. Whilst being considerably less controversial, it was still eventually banned, too.

Ironically enough, Atlantis were only presented with the opportunity to release **Faces of Death** after original rights holders Intervision passed on the option. They company was so concerned by the content that they voluntarily submitted it to the BBFC, stating, "If no certificate is granted the scheduled release will be cancelled" Atlantis duly stepped in and launched it at the Video Software Show, held at the Heathrow Penta Hotel from the 7th to 9th of September 1982.

In 2003 this rotten little film was finally submitted to the BBFC for DVD release by International Trading, who were able to get it classified '18' after losing over two minutes of animal cruelty.



Video Label: **Video Unlimited**
Catalogue Number: **VUV050**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **89m 02s**

Director: **Donald M. Dohler**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Deadly Neighbor**

You'd think that for your company's fiftieth release you'd issue something a little special. Not if your name is Video Unlimited who unleashed this grade-Z offering from Baltimore based director Don Dohler. At the time it was a recent movie, so perhaps it could be considered an early example of the straight to video release. Despite the film's modest origins, it has since been made available several times in America, once re-titled as **Deadly Neighbor** as well as finding distribution in Australia and Japan. It is currently available on American DVD from Retromedia, complete with a blooper reel!

Fiend was shot over a two month period almost entirely in Dohler's house, backyard and immediate neighbourhood making this a genuine home-made movie. In fact his wife Pam, kids and even the family cat (!) all played their part. This was Dohler's second feature, made between a pair of equally homely cult science fiction romps, **Alien Factor** (released in Britain by AVI) and **Nightbeast** (yet another VIPCO pick-up). **Fiend** was co-produced by Ted Bohus, whose next project was cult hit **The Deadly Spawn**, which is also featured in this book.

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE
Video Label: **Vision-On**
Catalogue Number: **VOVD16**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **82m 11s**

Director: **Robert A. Endelson**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1977**
aka: **I Hate Your Guts, Bloodbath at 1313 Fury Drive; Held Hostage, Staying Alive**

Rumours persist that this had originally played UK cinemas with an 'AA' certificate (no one under 14 years of age admitted), which is completely untrue. It had in fact been submitted to the BBFC for a theatrical release in 1981, but was rejected outright.

Just a year later, Tony Muldoon's Vision-On (who were nothing to do with the children's TV programme of the same name) issued the full uncensored version, which they had acquired as part of a package of otherwise unproblematic titles. It's doubtful they actually knew that this film had previously been banned.

It was very quickly added to the ever-expanding list of video nasties, and it is extremely doubtful whether it will ever be seen in the UK again.

A US DVD of this genuinely troubling racist fantasy is available for those with a desire to wallow.

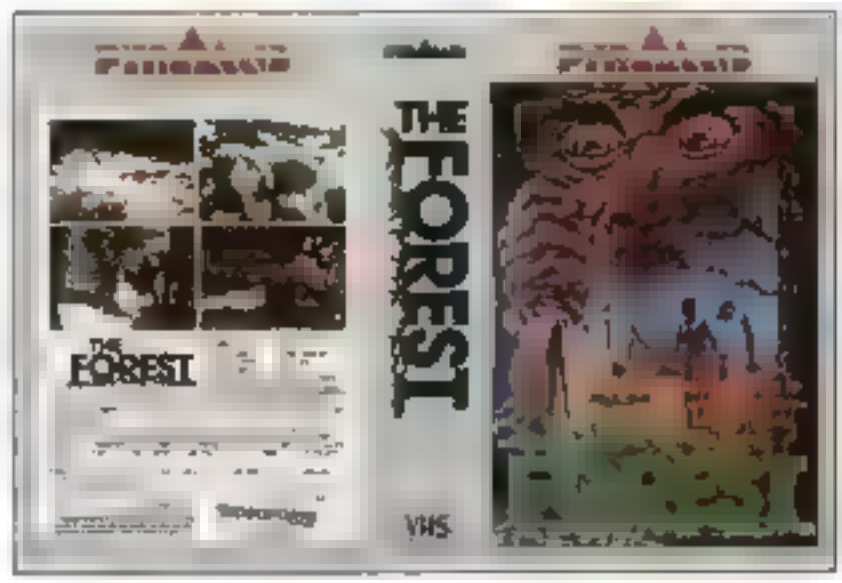
FLESH EATERS
Video Label: **Knockout**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **67m 32s**

Director: **Jack Curtis**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1962**

Birmingham-based Knockout Video's tapes are considered to be the most scarce of all, and their releases - around nine in all - are an eclectic mixture.

Flesh Eaters was classified by the BBFC with an 'X' certificate back in January of 1968, with no cuts. The Knockout video release is somewhat disappointing in that it is missing around twenty minutes of narrative, most likely due to the loss of an entire reel from the source print.

For trivia fans, American sexploitation mogul Radley Metzger worked on the film as its editor, and director Jack Curtis - who can be heard in **Flesh Eaters** as the radio DJ - went on to continue his voice-over work with the 1966 TV series **Marina Boy**.



FOREST OF FEAR
Video Label: **Monte**
Catalogue Number: **MON1**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **81m 05s**

Director: **Charles McCrann**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Bloodeaters**, **Toxic Zombies**, **Crying Fields**

Forest of Fear was another straight to video release in the UK, having played American cinemas with an 'R' rating under its alternative **Bloodeaters** title.

Monte, the video company responsible for putting out this obscurity in Britain, appeared on the scene very briefly under the directorship of Phillip Tinsley and succeeded in releasing only four titles before going belly-up.

Forest of Fear was also released on video in at least three other territories - The Netherlands, Italy and the USA - and interestingly enough the version of the film on all of these tapes runs for more than 4 minutes longer than the print issued by Monte. Censorship is not the reason for this shortfall however, as the bulk of the Monte version is uncut, and it is simply missing the film's epilogue, in which one of the investigating FBI agents quietly cracks under the strain and quits his job. (Specifically, he is seen packing his things up, leaving in his car, stopping at a petrol station, filling up, and driving off.)

THE FOREST
Video Label: **Pyramid**
Catalogue Number: **6203**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **December 1983**
Running Time: **82m 10s**

Director: **Don Jones**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Terror in the Forest**

After churning out memorable sleazefests like **Abducted** (aka **Schoolgirls in Chains**, 1973) and **The Love Butcher** (1975), maverick director Don Jones turned his hand to comedy with **The Sweater Girls** and then to the slasher movie genre with this release, **The Forest**.

The uncut version distributed by Video Form was one of five titles issued by the Pyramid label, which was created by 21st Century Entertainments as a brand to sell their titles for distribution through Intervision, CBS/Fox and Video Form.

The Pyramid label was established by Mo Clandge - now head of successful DVD label Anchor Bay UK - who has always prided himself on ensuring his releases have good packaging and eye-catching cover art. The design showcased in the main section of this book was actually used for a re-release, which was issued during December 1983. Pyramid originally issued the tape onto the British rental market on 30 July 1983 with different packaging, as shown in the alternative covers section at the back of this book.

When **The Forest** was eventually submitted for classification in 1988, 22 seconds of cuts were required in order for it to be granted an '18' certificate.

FRANKENSTEIN ISLAND
Video Label: **Ambassador (Derann)**
Catalogue Number: **V 2020C**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **91m 51s**

Director: **Jerry Warren**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**

This was Jerry Warren's last feature, and was up to his expected incredibly low standards. Anybody hiring this one was in for an early night - it really is that bad, despite its rather enticing cover art, which used the image from the American theatrical poster. It is presumed that the film must have played on America's drive-in circuit.

Ambassador was in fact a label set up by Derann as part of a deal with the powerful Rank organisation, presumably in an attempt to secure wider distribution for selected titles. The following year saw Derann set up yet another label, Liberty Video, to release a pair of Ray Dennis Steckler oddities, **Blood Shack** and **Body Fever**.

Frankenstein Island was an unremarkable movie that starred B-movie idols John Carradine and Cameron Mitchell, and was seemingly too long for some viewers in its uncut state, as Portland Films saw fit to re-release it in a one-hour version. Portland specialised in this format - obviously a cost-cutting measure designed to make use of cheap 60-minute VHS tapes. However, given access to full-length masters, these shortened versions sometimes contained footage that was not in their feature-length counterparts, case in point being Italian crime-thriller **Ricco**, the one-hour version of which contained extras scenes of gore and violence.

Xtasy Video somehow decided that the full-length edition of **Frankenstein Island** was worthy of a re-issue in late 1986, after it had been awarded a 'PG' rating by the BBFC, but it was deleted soon after. The film is currently available on DVD from the US.

FRANKENSTEIN'S CASTLE OF FREAKS
Video Label: **Abacus**
Catalogue Number: **303**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **86m 06s**

Director: **Ramiro Oliveros (as Robert H. Oliver)**
Country of Production: **Italy, USA**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Terror! Il castello delle donne maledette**, **Il castello della paura**; **Castle of Terror**; **Terror Castle**

This bizarre Italian oddity appeared on videotape in no less than three alternative packaging designs in addition to the wildly effective design featured in the book's main section. The others are all pictured in the alternative sleeves section. The two DVS releases were by far the most common, although the Abacus edition is the collectors' favourite now.

Abacus were a small concern based in Uxbridge in Middlesex and run by the team of Gerald Good, George Davis and Wendy Moorhen. They released just seventeen movies when in business.

It's hard to believe, but this film is now available on both British and American DVD, after a deal was struck with the rights holders Something Weird Video.

FROZEN SCREAM
Video Label: **Home Video Productions**
Catalogue Number: **A-AE0433**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **77m 00s**

Director: **Frank Roach**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**

It's hard to understand why **Frozen Scream** was at one time considered to be worrying enough to warrant inclusion on the banned list, but it was indeed there for a short while. The early '80s was a very confused time for the video industry in Britain with some titles appearing on lists of 'video nasties' for a few months before being dropped soon after. As a result of this muddled state of affairs, video dealers did not feel safe stocking titles that they could in effect be fined, or even imprisoned, for renting out. It appears that **Frozen Scream** suffered this fate as despite being very quickly removed from the DPP list, it had by this time become tainted with the whiff of illegitimacy and never became widely available again.

Despite not having been seen since on VHS, the film recently resurfaced in Germany on DVD mastered from exactly the same print used for this twenty-year old Home Video Productions obscurity, which was distributed as part of the company's nine-title deal with Intervision. The other HVP titles handled by Intervision were **Don't Go Near the Park**, **Highpoint**, **The Jekyll and Hyde Portfolio**, **Joy Ride to Nowhere**, **Journey Into Fear**, **Outlaw Riders**, **To Be a Rose** and **Virus**. (Home Video Productions also put out around sixty films with their own distribution).

Director Frank Roach made just one more picture, **Nomad Riders**, in 1981, whilst headlining actress Renee Harmon went on to write books about low budget filmmaking.

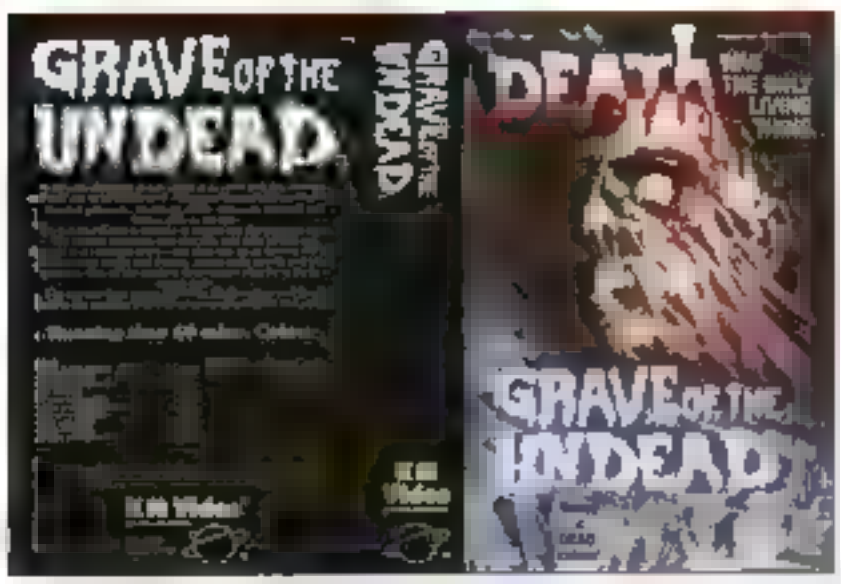
FUNHOUSE
Video Label: **CIC**
Catalogue Number: **VHA1058**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **10 June 1983**
Running Time: **88m 44s**

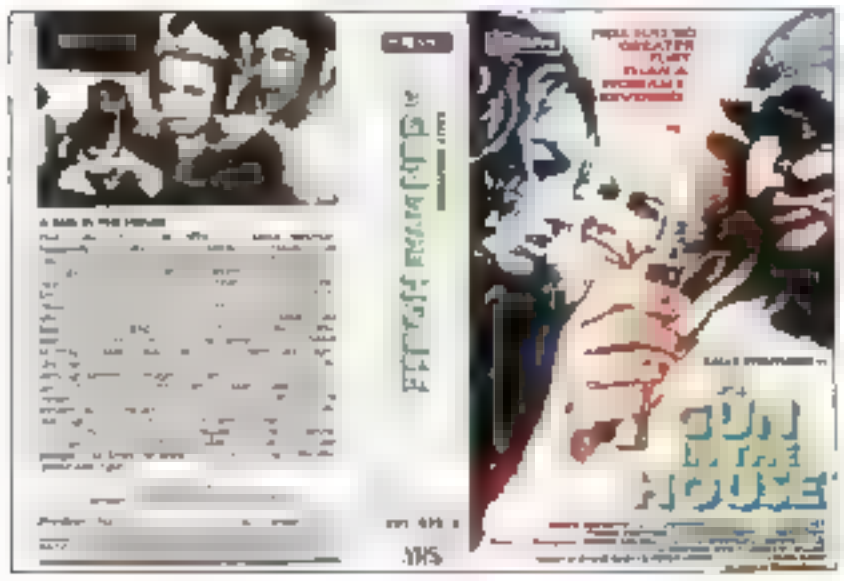
Director: **Tobe Hooper**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**

Time to clear up a long-running myth. Many collectors believe that this title was banned due to it being mistaken for Roger Watkins's movie of the same name (which was also known as **Last House on Dead End Street**), presumably because horror aficionados could not fathom why on earth anyone could take offense at this slick, well-made, and definitely not mean-spirited horror movie. But that is exactly what did in fact happen.

Interestingly enough, **Last House on Dead End Street** was announced as being part of the first package of titles to be issued by London retail chain Flickers on the FLK label. However it appears that they never proceeded past the stage of producing some promotional samples, marked up on the tape label as **Fun House**. There is no evidence that this tape was ever actually released in the UK though.

Hooper's **Funhouse** had previously been granted an uncut BBFC 'X' certificate in 1981 for its theatrical release through Cinema International. The same uncensored version





was issued by CIC in June 1983 - right at the height of the 'video nasties' debacle.

It only took a few complaints from over-zealous viewers to get a title unwanted attention, and this one, out of sheer bad luck, got that attention. It was on the DPP lists from September 1984 to June 1985, and when submitted for video classification in 1987 it was again passed intact.

GBH - GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM
Video Label: **Darlton**
Catalogue Number: **XFV180**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **22 March 1983**
Running Time: **73m 29s**

Director: **David Kent-Watson**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1983**
aka: **G.B.H. Grievous Bodily Harm**

GBH was one of the first British shot-on-video movies to get a video release (along with Alan Briggs's **Suffer Little Children**), and it succeeded in becoming something of a minor hit. Little is known about Manchester-based filmmaker David Kent-Watson, but he made a dozen features in all, **GBH** being his second, after **Tuxedo Warrior**. Other Kent-Watson video features include 1988's **The Eye of Satan** and **Lethal Impact**, a **GBH** sequel made in 1991.

The career of star Cliff Twemlow is relatively well documented however. An archetypal Mancunian 'hard man', Twemlow's background in the shady world of nightclub security served him well, and he broke into acting via work as a stuntman. His contribution to **GBH** was not confined to his on-screen performance however, as he also produced the film and composed the music, under the pseudonym John Agar. He wrote pulp horror fiction too, with a couple of published novels to his name - *The Beast of Kane* and *The Pike*.

This World of Video 2000-distributed release featured a rather eye-catching cover, with a cheeky strap-line comparing it to Brit-gangster masterpiece **The Long Good Friday**!

GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY
Video Label: **Video Film Promotions**
Catalogue Number: **VFP004**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **80m 56s**

Director: **Cesare Canevari**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1978**
aka: **L'ultima orgia del III Reich**; **The Last Orgy of the Third Reich**; **Caligula Reincarnated as Hitler**

Although several Nazi-exploitation movies were consigned to the DPP's banned list, this was the only one that had any degree of artistic merit. Even though it features some rather harrowing sequences - and despite the fact that its subject matter makes it a troublesome prospect by default - it is actually an above average exploitation movie. Regardless, it ended up in court as one would expect.

Two video releases appeared in rental stores, the first from VFP. Video Film Promotions had acquired this title as part of a package of Italian exploitation titles, which included

the also-banned **Anthropophagous the Beast**. Even so, the UK version was missing a sequence lasting 10 minutes 48 seconds in which the Nazis have an Aryan-fantasy racist conversation before they feast on a meal of human flesh and a stripped woman is set alight after being doused in cognac!

Later copies of the VFP cassette had a sticker placed over the text on the back of the sleeve, to further warn of its contents. The film was also released on the Video Shack label at around the time the two VFP tapes were banned - most likely as a quick cash-in.

Enquiries regarding possible video classification were made by Prime Time in 1985. James Ferman, who was then the head of the BBFC, was utterly appalled and he reacted by refusing to discuss it any further.

More recently, the Hardgore label made enquiries, but the BBFC advised that they would probably not grant the film a certificate, so the release was cancelled.

An American DVD is currently available under the ludicrous re-titling of **Caligula Reincarnated as Hitler**.

GRAVE OF THE UNDEAD
Video Label: **KM**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1982**
Running Time: **55m 47s**

Director: **John Hayes**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **Garden of the Dead**, **Tomb of the Undead**

Classified 'X' toward the end of 1973, **Garden of the Dead** (its original title) first played British cinemas as a supporting feature to John Hayes's feature-length 1972 film **Grave of the Vampire**.

As well as appearing on the Woodford Green, Essex-based KM label, it also turned up as **Tomb of the Undead** on Tryte. Jon Brewer's Avatar label also had it scheduled for release in 1984 as **Garden of the Dead**, but it never materialised, although mock covers were sent out to dealers.

There's no doubt that the wonderfully trashy video cover is inspired by the EC Comics art of the 1950s.

A GUN IN THE HOUSE
Video Label: **Spectrum**
Catalogue Number: **781 513**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **91m 51s**

Director: **Ivan Nagy**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**

For a TV movie, this is strong stuff. Basically a variation on the **Death Wish** theme, it stars Sally Struthers, better known for her role in Sam Peckinpah's **The Getaway** and later TV work.

The Spectrum label was distributed by Dutch-owned music specialists PolyGram, who surprisingly enough put out a few other movies of interest, including the much-hyped British science fiction splatter movie **Xtro**, all-time classic **An American Werewolf in London**, and the 'lost' Wes Craven feature **Deadly Blessing**, featuring the young Sharon Stone and a star turn by Michael (**The Hills Have Eyes**) Berryman.

When **A Gun in the House** was shown on British TV during the early 1990s, it sparked a string of complaints. To date, it is yet to be re-issued on video or DVD.

HEADLESS EYES
Video Label: **Sapphire (AVI)**
Catalogue Number: **SV100**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **17 November 1982**
Running Time: **76m 21s**

Director: **Kent Bateman**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **The Headless Eyes**

Headless Eyes played American cinemas on a double-bill with Andy Milligan's **The Ghastly Ones** (released on video in Britain as **Blood Rites**, as seen in this book). Neither film ever received a British cinema release.

Sapphire had been set up as an off-shoot label by AVI in London. If this one movie is anything to go by, it would certainly have been interesting to see what other deranged gems they had hidden up their sleeves.

Although **Headless Eyes** is staggeringly inept, its down-at-heel ambience lends it an aura of perverse charm, undoubtedly the reason that it still has a cult following: a DVD release would be welcomed by many.

The film was produced by Ronald Sullivan, who is better known as porn director Henri Pachard, responsible most notably for the classic **The Devil in Miss Jones, Part II**, arguably not only one of the great porno sequels, but also one of the greatest comedy/porno cross-over feature films ever made, period. Director Kent Bateman's main claim to fame appears to be that his daughter Justine Bateman dated rocker Billy Idol.

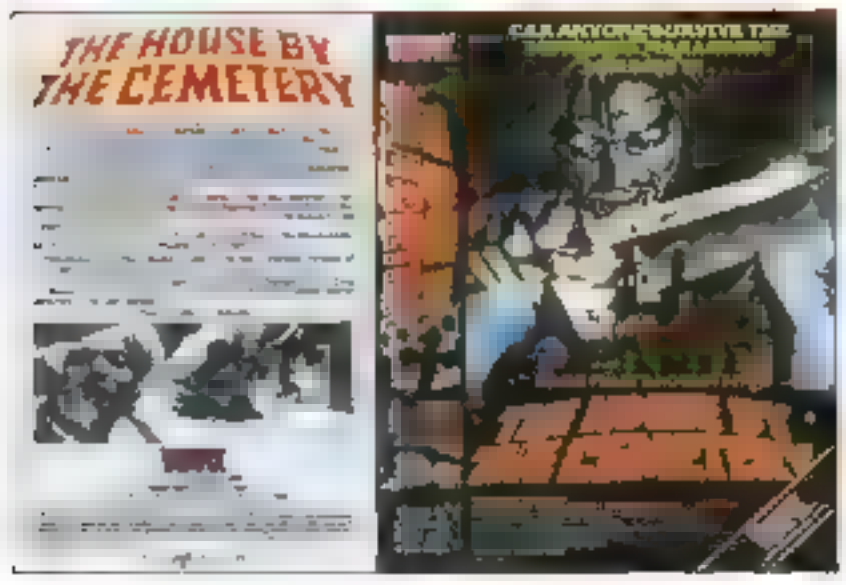
THE HILLS HAVE EYES
Video Label: **Jaguar**
Catalogue Number: **XF122**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1981**
Running Time: **85m 32s**

Director: **Wes Craven**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1977**

After a profitable British theatrical run courtesy of New Realm Entertainment in 1979, **The Hills Have Eyes** was issued on video in 1981 by Jaguar Video, and was distributed as part of David Hamilton-Grant's World of Video 2000 set-up. This was the same slightly censored BBFC 'X' version that had played in UK cinemas, and it went on to become a hugely successful rental title.

When submitted in 1987 by Palace Video for a video release certificate, an additional 2 seconds of cuts were requested, in addition to those already made for its cinema release. It wasn't until the recent Anchor Bay DVD that the uncut version could been seen in Britain.

Jaguar's distribution company World of Video 2000 was actually a subsidiary of April Electronics, whose directors David Hamilton-Grant, Malcolm Fancey and Roger Morley all faced the courts in February 1984 in the famous **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain** obscenity trial.



Fancey and Morley received suspended sentences and fines, whereas Hamilton-Grant was sentenced to 18 months in prison - eventually reduced to 12 months with 6 months suspended after appeal. As a direct result of this prosecution April Electronics was liquidated taking World of Video 2000 with it.

HONEYMOON HORROR
Video Label: **AVI**
Catalogue Number: **AVI002**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **27 September 1982**
Running Time: **86m 21s**

Director: **Harry Preston**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka: **Texas Honeymoon Horror**

London based AVI Video entered the British video market during September 1982 with their release of **Bloodrage** shot under a pseudonym by Joseph Zito, better known as the director of 1981's **The Prowler** (which was released in the UK as **Rosemary's Killer** on the then-fledgling Entertainment In Video label)

AVI started up by releasing four consecutive horror titles on video in easily-recognisable generic cover designs. **Honeymoon Horror**, AVI's second release, was just another amongst scores of low-budget rip-offs of box-office sensation **Friday the 13th**. It was followed by **Island of Death**, also covered in this book, and **The Jekyll Experiment** (aka **Dr Jekyll's Dungeon of Death**), before the company released a variety of interesting obscurities including Kent Osborne's **Escape from Cell Block 3**, kung-fu flick **Stranger from Shaolin** and **Invaders of the Lost Gold** directed by Alan Birkinshaw, who was also responsible for **Killer's Moon**, covered elsewhere in this book.

AVI continued issuing videos at a steady rate, with their last four releases - which included heavily cut versions of **Ginger**, **The Abductors** and Joe D'Amato's **Beyond the Darkness** - being amongst the first to carry BBFC '18' ratings. AVI was just one of many small labels that ceased to trade following the full implementation of the VRA.

Honeymoon Horror was written by director Preston under an alias, and he hasn't made another movie since. In fact the only person who had any real technical movie making experience was Bill Pecchi, who pops up as a Sheriff. The film was shot in just two weeks at the Austin Patio Dude Ranch in Grapevine, Texas. Legend has it that filming was constantly interrupted by jets flying directly overhead - because the Ranch was built at the head of Dallas Fort Worth Airport's main landing strip! The film remains unavailable on video or DVD.

THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY
Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1027**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **27 January 1983**
Running Time: **81m 06s**

Director: **Lucio Fulci**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Quella villa accanto al cimitero**

Like Lucio Fulci's **The Beyond**, **The House by the Cemetery** had just completed its tour of the UK cinema circuit, courtesy of Barry Jacobs's Eagle Films.

Videomedia licensed both films for their Vampix horror label, issuing the censored BBFC 'X' cinema versions, much to the annoyance of many horror fans, who insisted that Videomedia should have issued the uncut versions.

They might have been better advised to do just that with **The House by the Cemetery**, because this BBFC-approved version still managed to upset the clean-up campaigners and was therefore banned anyway.

When Barry Jacobs re-submitted the film for his newly formed Elephant Video company in 1988, over 4 minutes of cuts were requested. This was in addition to the 34 seconds of cuts he had already made. Clearly, the BBFC were having problems when classifying previously banned movies, so they played safe by over-cutting them.

Mike Lee had also played it safe when he re-submitted the heavily cut version for his VIPCO label's re-issue in 1993, but he eventually decided to submit a much more complete version in 2001. It was however cut by 33 seconds, as the BBFC had to take into account a recent successful prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act. **The House by the Cemetery** therefore remains censored on video in the UK.

HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK

Video Label: **Skyline**
Catalogue Number: **CL003**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **15 October 1982**
Running Time: **87m 48s**

Director: **Ruggero Deodato**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **La casa sperduta nel parco, La casa ai confini del parco**

It's funny to think that this truly outrageous Italian shocker starring David Hess, the utterly convincing psycho from **The Last House on the Left**, was actually submitted to the BBFC during 1981 by an unsuspecting Neil Agran of Target Films. It would have been hilarious to see the examiners' faces when this film unspooled in their cosy Soho screening room.

In 1983 though, the outlaw spirit was rampant in the British video industry, and Adrian Rose's small Skyline label decided to take a risk by releasing the film totally uncut on video anyway. The film was however too much even for many hardened horror fans to handle, and it was destined to become a permanent member of the DPP's official video nasty list.

This tape was distributed by Video Form, but it was initially stated to be part of a four-title package handled by D.S. (The other titles were **Blood Tide**, **Cop In Blue Jeans** and **Sex with a Smile**, starring Marty Feldman!)

Despite the film's fearsome reputation, it was still surprising to discover that, when re-submitted for video classification by VIPCO's Mike Lee in 2002, a whopping 11 minutes 43 seconds of cuts were ordered before a certificate would be granted. Due entirely to the film's excessive levels of sexual violence it has the dubious honour of being one of the most heavily-cut '18'-rated DVDs on British shelves today. Uncensored DVDs can be ordered from either Europe or America.

HUMAN EXPERIMENTS

Video Label: **Jaguar**
Catalogue Number: **XF121**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **August 1981**
Running Time: **81m 48s**

Director: **Gregory Goodell**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Beyond the Gate**

Released to British cinemas by New Realm Distributors, **Human Experiments** played a few dates at the beginning of 1980. This video release appeared in stores across the UK toward the end of 1981.

Along with two other releases covered in this book - **The Hills Have Eyes** and **Don't Answer the Phone** - this Jaguar tape was distributed by World of Video 2000, who were responsible for handling a host of interesting titles, including long-lost British sex comedies such as **I'm Not Feeling Myself Tonight**. Like this obscurity, and many of the other collectable titles to be found under the WOV 2000 banner, **Human Experiments** is currently unavailable in Britain (a DVD with the title 'Human Experiments' has been issued, but this is actually Michael Laughlin's **Strange Behaviour**).

This was director Goodell's only film for the cinema; he has worked exclusively in TV since, though his interest in the darker side of human nature continues to be readily apparent in everything he turns his hand to, with his CV being made up almost entirely of generic thriller titles such as **Cruel Justice** and **Murderous Intent**.

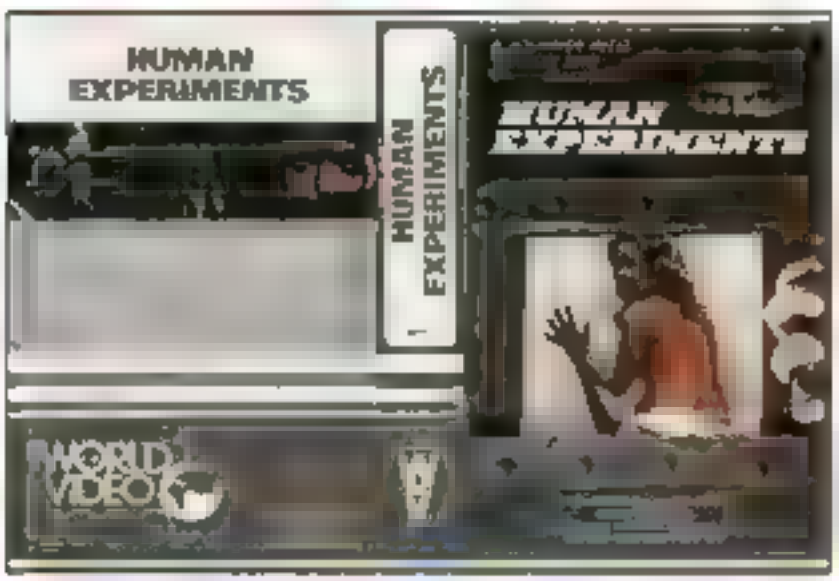
I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE

Video Label: **Astra**
Catalogue Number: **WV018**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1982**
Running Time: **96m 47s**

Director: **Meir Zarchi**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1978**
aka: **Day of the Woman**

Thanks to Mary Whitehouse's clean-up campaigners, **I Spit on Your Grave** achieved maximum press coverage, and subsequent pressure from repressive sectors of the media was successful in getting this movie banned. Before the ban had been imposed however, all the negative publicity it had received ensured that Astra's video rose to the top of the rental charts. As with most of the 'video nasties', had it simply been ignored, it would most likely have vanished quietly without trace, but by virtue of its banned status, this previously unheard-of movie became an instant must-see.

Never submitted for theatrical distribution, this Astra video was the first time it had been produced specifically for release in Britain. The earliest copies to be made available were put out on the Wizard label, but these tapes were manufactured in the US and imported by Astra, who were run by Mike Behr and owned by the American company Novacom. When making their move into the expanding UK video market, Novacom had signed a deal that made Astra the exclusive British distributors for Wizard product. The first four titles released under the terms of this arrangement were **I Spit on Your Grave**, George A. Romero's **Season of the**



Witch the trailer compilation **The Best of Sex & Violence**, and a documentary, **The Best of the First New York Erotic Film Festival**. Despite making a huge splash in the industry Astra did not even manage two full years of trading, finally going out of business in December 1983

The BBFC would not consider **I Spit on Your Grave** for classification until 2001, when Carey Budnick's International Trading company submitted it for release on their Hardgore label. Over seven minutes of cuts were required before it was granted its essential '18' certificate. Subsequent video certification submissions have been attempted with the aim of getting a more complete version into British shops, but it remains heavily censored. A superb uncut American DVD is however available

INSANITY
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO145**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **73m 50s**

Director: **Christine Hornisher**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Hollywood 90028, The Hollywood Hillside Strangler**

Instead of using the film's original title **Hollywood 90028**, Des Dolan at Go Video decided on a change to **Insanity** in the hope of appealing to a wider audience. In an era of occasionally bizarre promotional activity, the scheme he dreamed up for this release was particularly note-worthy, as described in the January 1983 issue of *Video Times*:

"Free light bulbs are being offered with Go Video's new release, **Insanity** for anyone who is afraid to watch the film in the dark. Go Video are sure that even the most fearless horror addicts will want to take up their offer. How true this is we will have to wait and see, but it's certainly a sure way of arousing interest for a video cassette. Set in the twilight world between normality and insanity, you have all the elements of a good horror film - a psychotic killer who kills everything he loves and lots of passionate love scenes ending in murder. The man who wrote this film, Craig Hansen, actually spent several weeks inside a psychiatric hospital - to do research for his film I hasten to add. Even if you don't like the film, you still benefit from your new light bulb!"

It's doubtful that the campaign made any difference however as this tape was not particularly common in video rental stores.

The cover art was designed by Graffiti Productions, who were responsible for some of the most memorable artwork of the period.

INSEMINOID
Video Label: **Brant Walker**
Catalogue Number: **BW07**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **88m 35s**

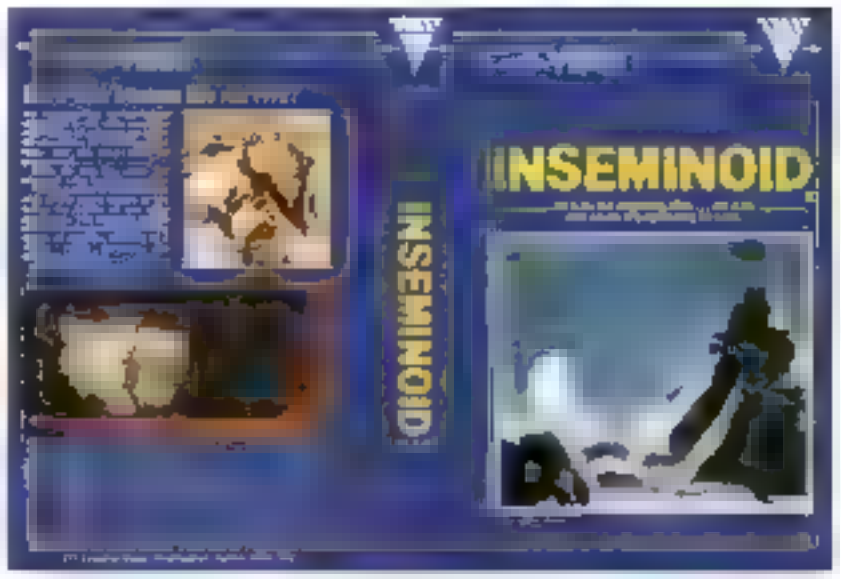
Director: **Norman J. Warren**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Horror Planet**

After a successful theatrical run the previous year Brent Walker released **Inseminoid** onto home video just in time for the run-up to Christmas in 1981

Remarkably never cut by the BBFC, this low-budget outing - obviously inspired by **Alien** - did however run into problems with radical feminist groups, who picketed the film, allegedly after a pregnant woman passed out during a screening (the film plays on common pre-natal fears about monstrous births!)

It has been re-issued on several occasions, but easily the best release to date is the DVD offered by Anchor Bay UK as part of the Norman J. Warren box set

Inseminoid was distributed by VideoSpace, who appear to have hit something of a goldmine with their Brent Walker deal - as well as the other Norman J. Warren title covered in this book, **Satan's Slave**, they also picked up very popular titles such as **The Bitch** and **The Stud Monty Python and the Holy Grail Emmanuelle** and **Death Race 2000** - all massive renters in the early days of video, when consumer choice was still relatively restricted VideoSpace were also responsible for handling quite a few Brent Walker titles that were not so popular with the public at large, but are of great interest to cult movie fans, of particular note being **The Brute**, a very obscure and quite shocking British horror drama directed by Gerry O'Hara well-known for his TV work on **The Avengers** and **The Professionals**



INVASION OF THE BLOOD FARMERS
Video Label: **Rainbow**
Catalogue Number **MVT2009**
Format **Small Box**
Release Date **March 1982**
Running Time: **73m 55s**

Director **Ed Adlum**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**

Another seemingly ubiquitous video release during the early 1980s was this bizarre example of Z-grade filmmaking from the producer of **Shriek of the Mutilated**

Invasion of the Blood Farmers first appeared on the Rainbow label, which was distributed by Mountain Video. After Mountain merged with Videon D B. International Group in February 1983, an alternate video was quickly released on the Videon label

The film has never been submitted to the BBFC for an official British video release, but can be purchased on DVD from America.

INVITATION TO HELL
Video Label: **Scorpio**
Catalogue Number **SVP102/3**
Format **Small Box**
Release Date: **15 July 1983**
Running Time: **41m 28s / 50m 13s**

Director **Michael J. Murphy**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1982**

This was actually a double-bill of two 16mm shorts, **Invitation to Hell** and **The Last Night**, both of which were made exclusively for the video market. They remain the most well-known examples of British filmmaker Michael J

Murphy's work to have been made available in the UK. The only other Murphy-directed film known to exist on British video is **Death in the Family**, a Greek-lensed potboiler released on the Neon label.

Following on from their much-hyped, and eventually banned, release of **Blood Rites**, Scorpio Video had a lot hanging on the success of this innovative double-bill release but the stars must have been aligned against them. The first signs that the young company was in difficulty came with November 1983 trade press ads stating that "Scorpio Video has slashed the prices of two of its horror titles - **Blood Rites** and **Invitation to Hell** as part of a promo campaign coinciding with the astrological month of Scorpio (October 24 to November 22). The dealer price on both has come down to £16.95 (plus VAT)" Sadly this imaginative attempt to boost the organisation's cash-flow failed however, because it was to be their last release

Invitation to Hell was later submitted for video classification by Senator Releasing and required BBFC-imposed cuts of 39 seconds before its inevitable '18' certificate could be granted. Sadly, this video release was unauthorised, poorly-mastered (probably a standards-conversion from NTSC), uninspiringly packaged and completely missing **The Last Night!**

ISLAND OF DEATH
Video Label: **AVI**
Catalogue Number: **AVI003**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **16 November 1982**
Running Time: **102m 39s**

Director: **Nico Mastorakis (as Nick Mastorakis)**
Country of Production: **Greece**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Ta Pedhia tou Dhiavoulou; Island of Perversion; A Craving for Lust; Devils In Mykonos; Psychic Killer II; Cruel Destination**

This truly shocking movie from the future director of **Blind Date** was first screened in 1976 at selected UK cinemas, with the title **A Craving for Lust.** It was granted an 'X' certificate after having lost around 14 minutes at the hands of some presumably traumatised BBFC examiners.

The uncut version was put onto the market by AVI, who were obviously hoping to fool the powers that be, as it featured a sticker indicating that the film had been approved by the BBFC. Well it had - but not in this uncut version, which surprisingly enough did not become an official 'nasty' until October 1985. A film called **Island of Death** did however appear on the list published in November 1983, but it is probably of some significance that the title was immediately removed from the list after this one appearance. One logical explanation for this apparent anomaly might be that the November 1983 list was actually referring to Hokushin's release of Narciso Ibanez Serrador's far less offensive **Would You Kill a Child?** which was issued here under the alternative title of **Island of Death**.

The uncut version of Mastorakis's film was again submitted to the BBFC this time for video classification - by Hologram Video in 1987 under the title **Psychic Killer II**. Because of its recent Section Two OPA status, it was promptly rejected outright for classification

In 2002 VIPCO's Mike Lee made a renewed attempted to get this movie out on DVD in Britain and was able to do so with 4 minutes 9 seconds of cuts and substitution footage.

An uncut version is available from the USA and Europe issued with the direct collaboration of director Mastorakis Intriguingly, the credit sequence featured on the AVI video has been replaced by video-generated titles on DVD thus preserving the tape's collectability

JOURNEY INTO THE BEYOND
Video Label: **Citycenta (Go)**
Catalogue Number: **CCV002**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **103m 52s**

Director: **Rolf Olsen**
Country of Production: **West Germany**
Year of Production: **1977**
aka: **Reise ins Jenseits; Die Welt des Übernatürlichen**

Journey into the Beyond is a German Mondo-type documentary from the director of the **Shocking Asia** movies. It's hard to believe that this had actually played in some British cinemas, but Eagle Films handled the theatrical bookings, and it was eventually licensed to Go Video, who distributed the film on their new Citycenta Video label

Citycenta issued just two titles (the other was the amputee drama **Prelude to Happiness**), and both are extremely hard to find In fact the cover reproduced in these pages is from the only example of the **Journey Into the Beyond** video that any of the people working on this book have ever seen! Neither of the Citycenta titles have ever been re-issued

JUST BEFORE DAWN
Video Label: **Rank**
Catalogue Number: **2027Y**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **August 1983**
Running Time: **86m 45s**

Director: **Jeff Lieberman**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**

Just Before Dawn is another well-regarded backwoods survivalist horror existing in a filmic limbo land somewhere between **Friday the 13th** and **Deliverance**. Over the years it has developed something of a cult following

In common with many of the larger video companies in business at the time, Rank were applying a form of self-certification to their video releases prior to the full implementation of the Video Recordings Act. **Just Before Dawn** carried an '18' label on the back cover, and the tape featured the same version of the film as was passed by the BBFC with an 'X' certificate for the cinema two years earlier When it was officially submitted for a video certificate in 1986, cuts of 7 seconds were requested

Rank plainly bought this film as part of a package of titles as they also issued another of director Lieberman's films onto the British video market, the 1976 worms-that-turned horror flick **Squirm** (previously available in the UK on the Films of the 80's label), which came out several months after **Just Before Dawn**.

One other Lieberman movie, **Blue Sunshine**, was issued on VHS in the UK, as an early post-Video Recordings Act release on Joe Gatt's Video Movie Company label.

While **Squirm** and **Blue Sunshine** have both enjoyed feature-packed DVD releases, **Just Before Dawn** rather mysteriously remains unavailable on the format

KILLER'S MOON
Video Label: **Inter-Ocean**
Catalogue Number: **IOV049**
Format: **Card Box (Large)**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **88m 23s**

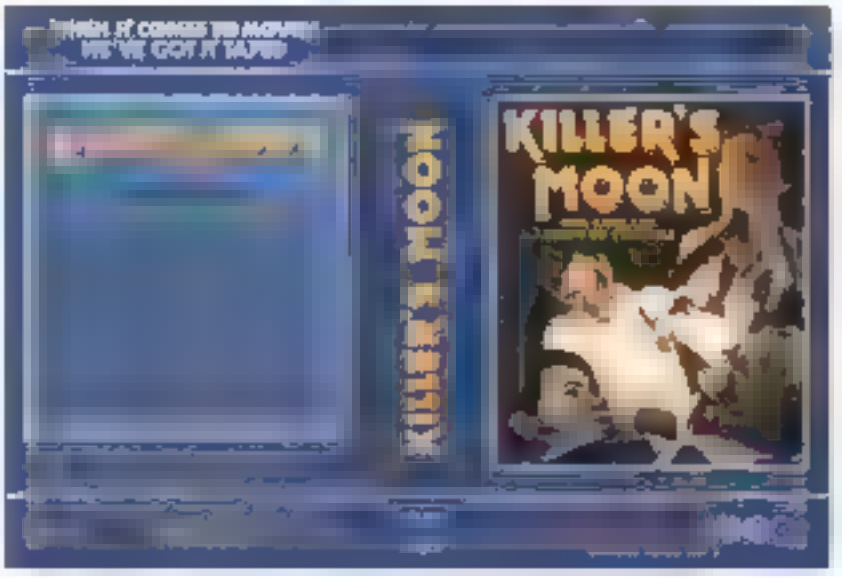
Director: **Alan Birkinshaw**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1978**

It's almost impossible to imagine this mind-bogglingly trashy schoolgirls-in-peril sexploitationer playing British cinemas today, but back in 1978 it did just that, after it had rather remarkably been granted an uncut 'X' certificate by the BBFC. Theatrical distribution was handled by Rothemorth the production company who financed the movie.

This uncensored video release appeared on the Inter-Ocean label toward the end of 1981 and became an instant must-see for fans of bad horror movies - and those with a dubious penchant for lecching over the sight of imperiled schoolgirls.

If it were to be formally submitted for video classification today, it would no doubt require cuts to its scenes of rape and sexualised violence, which is all the more surprising considering that it was co-scripted by Alan Birkinshaw's uncredited sister, Fay Weldon!

Mint condition examples of this rarity are almost impossible to find now, as it was packaged in a large card display box, which was often cut down to fit in standard 'big box' video cases. **Killer's Moon** was the 49th film issued by Inter-Ocean, whose releases were distributed by VPD from very early on in their history. There were approximately 100 Inter-Ocean titles in all, of which two dozen were packaged in these relatively flimsy large card boxes. The company appeared unable to make its mind up about the best way to present its tapes, as during their time in business they also used standard big boxes and small boxes, and small card boxes too!



THE LAST HORROR FILM
Video Label: **Alpha**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0469**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **29 June 1983**
Running Time: **83m 24s**

Director: **David Winters**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka. **The Fanatic**

The Last Horror Film, sat at the 1981 Cannes Film Festival, re-united the stars of William Lustig's infamous 1980 splatter movie, **Maniac**.

It was issued to UK cinemas in 1982 by Alpha Films (who had only been been established a short time, having launched in August 1981) after BBFC cuts. A year later the film came out on video as part of Alpha's very successful distribution deal with Intervision, with all of the cut footage reinstated.

You certainly can't accuse director Winters of having a dull career. Starting out in the Sixties, he began by directing TV shows, including several episodes of **The Monkees**. He is also responsible for the ill-fated musical version of **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** - with Kirk Douglas - and continues to work today, mainly as a producer.

Despite the literally in-your-face artwork (that's Hammer starlet Caroline Munro being menaced on the cover), this uncut video managed to avoid the hassle of legal entanglements. A DVD has been released under the title **Fanatic**.

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT
Video Label: **Replay**
Catalogue Number: **R1013**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **77m 23s**

Director: **Wes Craven**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **Krug and Company**, **Sex Crime of the Century**

The Last House on the Left can lay claim to being the most banned film in Britain. When first submitted for a theatrical release certificate in 1974 by David Hamilton-Grant's Oppidan company, the movie was rejected outright. A further attempt was made in 1976 when it was submitted to the Greater London Council, who had the power to override the BBFC's decisions for local exhibition purposes. Again it was rejected outright.

In the Summer of 1982 Replay Video released a version which was more or less intact. All that was missing was a short comic sequence, and its removal actually had the effect of making the overall impact of the movie that much more harsh. It didn't take long for **The Last House on the Left** to be found obscene under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act, and it was added to the DPP's list of forbidden fruit.

Not surprisingly, when **Last House** was submitted to the BBFC again in 2000 it was rejected by them for a second time - and then yet again in 2001, when Blue Underground submitted it, demanding an uncut video certificate after refusing to make the requested cuts. Following a lengthy Video Appeals Committee hearing, the BBFC's decision was upheld, and Blue Underground were forced to comply with the BBFC's cuts, in addition to being lumbered with further cuts suggested by the VAC. The result can be seen on the currently available DVD from Anchor Bay UK. Uncensored releases are available in the rest of the world.

LATE NIGHT TRAINS
Video Label: **Video Warehouse International**
Catalogue Number: **GF506**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **87m 58s**

Director: **Aldo Lado**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Don't Ride on Late Night Trains**, **L'ultimo treno della notte**, **Violenza sull'ultimo treno della notte**, **The New House on the Left**, **Last Stop on the Night Train**, **Night Train Murders**

Made two years after **The Last House on the Left**, this Italian re-hash of Wes Craven's distressingly gritty shocker was rejected outright by the BBFC when submitted for classification in the Summer of 1976 by the Oppidan distribution company. In early 1981, Oppidan owner Hamilton-Grant took the decision to issue this banned cinema title on video through his World of Video 2000 company, albeit in a heavily censored version.

Just like its role-model, the film was added to the very first list of video titles issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions, indicating that it was banned from sale or hire in the UK. Official records from the time indicate that the DPP considered it suitable for prosecution only under Section Three of the Obscene Publications Act, rather than the more serious Section Two legislation. The film was actually listed by the DPP under the title **Night Train Murders**, which happens to be the on-screen title. There was another version of the film on sale in the UK from Cinehollywood (as with the majority of this company's tapes it was released in November 1981), which is actually called **Night Train Murder** on the sleeve. This print is vastly superior to the Video Warehouse version, as the excellent widescreen print is fully uncut, running for an extra 2 minutes 50 seconds. Approximately one minute of the footage missing from the **Late Night Trains** version can be attributed to censorship, the remainder being innocuous transitional material.

For the reasons discussed above it seems very likely that it was the Cinehollywood release that was first picked up as being suitable for prosecution, even though it is far less common than Video Warehouse's version. Under any title however, it was off the banned list by March 1984, but the film has not been seen in the UK since. A restored DVD release is available from the US.

The first six releases from Video Warehouse (**The Bruce Lee Story, Somebody's Stolen Our Russian Spy, Dark Star Slim** (a rare Trinidad and Tobago production), **Drawn**, and **Late Night Trains**) were issued in small video cases. When distribution was taken over by World of Video 2000 there appears to have been a move to package the tapes in big boxes. Almost all the tapes of **Late Night Trains** that have survived have packaging made up of the original small format cover art, which has been been cut up and stuck onto a sheet of cheap paper - either green or blue or yellow - and put in big video boxes.

This cover is a good example of an early form of unofficial self-imposed video certification - this tape was awarded a 'AX' rating - and also of a fuzzy approach to the art of deciding what a film is actually called... The front cover showed **Don't Ride on Last Night Trains** and the spine and back simply **Late Night Trains!**

the tape itself (**Lenor**) and on the cover (**Leanor**). The correct spelling, from Poe's original poem is *Lenore*.

Little is known about the obscure Vox label, but the catalogue number MAV033 indicates that it must have been distributed by Market Video.

A superior version had previously been released, in August 1982, on the Surrey Video Cyclo label, with the original title **The Spectre of Edgar Allan Poe**. At the time of writing, the film is unavailable under any moniker whatsoever.

THE LIVING DEAD
Video Label: **Video Independent Productions**
Catalogue Number: **VIP002**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **88m 58s**

Director: **Jorge Grau**
Country of Production: **Spain, Italy**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Fin de semana para los muertos. Non si deve profenare il sonno dei morti. Let Sleeping Corpses Lie. The Living Dead at Manchester Morgue, Don't Open the Window**

A bona-fide all-time favourite amongst fans of zombie movies, **The Living Dead at Manchester Morgue** was originally seen in UK cinemas during 1975. Michael Myers's Miracle Films handled its theatrical run, and it was granted an 'X' rating by the BBFC, after some cuts had been made to the gore scenes.

This uncut video release, with the title on the cover shortened to just **The Living Dead**, was the second release for the then newly-established Video Independent Productions (VIP) label. It spent 16 months on the DPP's banned list, before being dropped in April 1985.

An alternate release entitled **Don't Open the Window** also appeared courtesy of the LVC label. This tape featured the shorter American version, which had been censored for an 'R' rating. It is also of interest for the simple fact that it came packaged in one of the most inept examples of video cover artwork in the history of the medium.

When Network Distribution submitted the film for video classification in 1985, cuts of 28 seconds were required, in addition to 1 minute 27 seconds cut before submission. This release appeared on the European Creative Films label.

The full uncut version was finally passed by the BBFC in 2002, after all previous cuts were waived. This version is now available on DVD in Britain courtesy of Anchor Bay.

LEANOR
Video Label: **Vox**
Catalogue Number: **MAV033**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **82m 21s**

Director: **Mohy Quandour**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **The Spectre of Edgar Allan Poe**, **Lenor** (sic)

Following a brief theatrical run during the mid-Seventies (it was granted a BBFC 'X' certificate), this hilariously packaged video appeared on the Vox label, with the movie title mis-spelled on

THE LOVE BUTCHER
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0144**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **1979**
Running Time: **81m 07s**

Director: **Mikel Angel & Don Jones**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**

After making the bizarre **Abducted** (aka **Schoolgirls in Chains**), Don Jones was hired to shoot new scenes to help bolster the running time - and improve the narrative coherence - of this sleazy but interesting oddity which was

completely bypassed by the distributors serving the mid-70s UK cinema circuit. It did however get a few play dates in some of New York City's 42nd Street grindhouses.

If **The Love Butcher** were to be submitted for video classification today, it would most likely require cuts to its scenes of graphic sex and violence before being granted an '18' certificate. Its very early video debut here on the trail-blazing intervision label might well prove to be the only release it will ever get, as it seems to have lapsed into obscurity

LOVE CAMP 7
Video Label: **Market**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **91m 51s**

Director: **Robert Lee Frost (as R.L. Frost)**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1968**

It's unlikely that Bob Cresse and Wes Bishop were aware that by writing **Love Camp 7** they were guilty of creating a whole new sub-genre of 'Nasty Nazi' movies. It took around six years, but eventually along came Canada's extremely graphic **Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS**, the success of which prompted the eruption of a whole slew of similar movies from across Europe.

No British company dared acquire this shocker for theatrical distribution, knowing full well that it would be banned outright by the censors. In 1983, however Leeds-

based fly-by-night company Abbey Video acquired it for video release. Abbey didn't stay around long enough to see it banned, but the re-issue on the Market Video label, which used the same master tape, kept the film in circulation, and it soon joined the DPP's banned list, which included three other Nazi-exploitation movies, **Gestapo's Last Orgy**, **SS Experiment Camp** and **The Beast In Heat**

A video submission was attempted in 2002 by Nigel Wingrove's Salvation Films, but it was rejected due to the film's 'eroticised depictions of sexual violence and repeated association of sex with restraint, pain, and humiliation'. Don't expect to see a British re-issue for this one any time soon. Although there is no official release of this film currently in circulation, it can be picked up on a relatively scarce European bootleg disc, which carries the slightly less inflammatory Abbey artwork on its sleeve.

MACABRE
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO122**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **86m 22s**

Director: **Lamberto Bava**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka. **Macabro**, **Frozen Terror**

Go Video had acquired **Macabre** as part of the same package of Italian movies that had included the infamous **Cannibal Holocaust** and this really quite impressive film by the son of legendary Italian horror master Mario Bava was

issued just a few months later. Around this time even the video magazines were beginning to review releases like this one not as horror movies but rather as 'new nasties'. Such was the level of debate at the time, that for a while nobody really knew what might or might not be banned.

Macabre may have looked like a proverbial nasty but its contents proved otherwise. It was passed uncut for Mogul Distribution in 1987 and again when Arthouse submitted it in 1995. It's not currently available in the UK, although DVDs are easy to find in America and Holland.

Go Video's releases are rightly revered by pre-VRA tape collectors, above all else because of their enticingly lurid cover designs. The company's product was also popular with people in the video trade, no doubt due in large part to their trailblazing publicity department - headed by the delightfully named Waxie Maxie - who along with the likes of VIPCO pioneered the use of expensive but invaluably effective, full-page full-colour press advertising.

MADHOUSE
Video Label: **Medusa**
Catalogue Number: **MC006**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1983**
Running Time: **89m 16s**

Director: **Ovidio G. Assonitis**
Country of Production: **USA, Italy**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **There Was a Little Girl And When She Was Bad**

Another of Medusa's early releases which, like **Absurd**, fell foul of the DPP's obscenity guidelines. Anybody watching **Madhouse** (originally titled **'There Was a Little Girl'**) might be hard-pushed to see what all the fuss was about, because there were two versions in circulation, only the first of which was uncut.

Medusa were keen not to be associated with the 'nasties' controversy, and, as they had done with **Absurd**, they sent out cut versions with a BBFC '18' certificate at the start. This was missing 75 seconds in total: two dog attack sequences had 18 seconds and 14 seconds removed respectively. 32 seconds was removed from the scene in which a power drill is used on the dog's head (obviously a fake one!), and 11 seconds were removed from the climactic axe attack by Julia on her uncle, Father James.

Madhouse wouldn't be seen again in the UK until 2004, when it was submitted for video classification by Film 2000. After all the previous fuss, it was passed uncut.

Medusa survived the turmoil of the early '80s to become one of the biggest independent DVD companies in Britain, and were finally acquired by Contender Entertainment Group in a multi-million pound take-over during February 2004.

MAN OF VIOLENCE
Video Label: **Worldwide**
Catalogue Number: **WW410**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1983**
Running Time: **97m 39s**

Director: **Pete Walker**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1969**
aka: **Moon: The Sex Racketeers**

Filmed in 1969, **Man of Violence** wasn't seen in Britain until it was picked up by Miracle Films for theatrical distribution in 1971. After cuts, it was granted an 'AA' certificate by the BBFC.

It appeared here first on Yvonne Armstrong's Home Video Supplies label (which counted director Pete Walker amongst its shareholders), the print used bearing the title **Moon**. The second, and most common, release was the one issued by Worldwide with the hysterically crude but effective cover art seen in this book. **Man of Violence** hasn't been re-issued or seen since.

MARDI GRAS MASSACRE
Video Label: **Goldstar (Derann)**
Catalogue Number: **FGS900**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **91m 51s**

Director: **Jack Weis**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1978**

Originally marketed on UK video with the tagline 'American Splatter Movie', it's no wonder this one came to the attention of the DPP's hit squad. The movie itself is inept beyond belief, even when compared to Herschell Gordon Lewis's earlier - and most likely cheaper - **Blood Feast**.

Although the video cover displays an 'X' rating, the film was never submitted to the BBFC for certification. There is no doubt that it would have been rejected at that time.

The film was first released on video during the summer of 1982 courtesy of Goldstar, one of Derann's offshoot labels. A re-release on the Peckham Rye, London-based Market Video label found its way into stores soon after. This second version utilised the same artwork, but dispensed with most of the catch-lines that adorned the Goldstar cover.

Mardi Gras Massacre was director Jack Weis's last movie and it hasn't been seen anywhere since.

THE MASK
Video Label: **Prestige**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1984**
Running Time: **73m 10s**

Director: **Julian Roffman**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1961**
aka: **The Eyes of Hell**

What a great idea this was. Issue an old black and white movie with some 3-D scenes and include ten pairs of free 3-D glasses. Who could resist renting this one?

In reality though the 3-D sadly falls flat, and the movie itself was cut into several segments. Each of these was interspersed with 'Mystic Magic' inserts involving 'Blackstone, the Master Magician', actually Harry Blackstone Jr. the son of Harry Blackstone Sr., a fascinating character who was responsible for some of the most acclaimed illusions of the early Twentieth Century. Most of the Blackstone props were eventually purchased - at a reported cost in excess of $2 million - by David Copperfield during a Sothebys online auction held during November 2002.

The Mask was the first Canadian film to be widely distributed in the United States, and the only Canadian 3-D feature. It's a fun movie, so the ineffectual 3-D does not ruin the experience too much. It was first offered for sale at the January 1984 London Video Software Show, at a trade price of 'only £30! The film has never been re-issued in the UK, so this rare tape commands a good price on the collectors' market.

MASSACRE AT CENTRAL HIGH
Video Label: **Merlin**
Catalogue Number: **M252D**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **84m 06s**

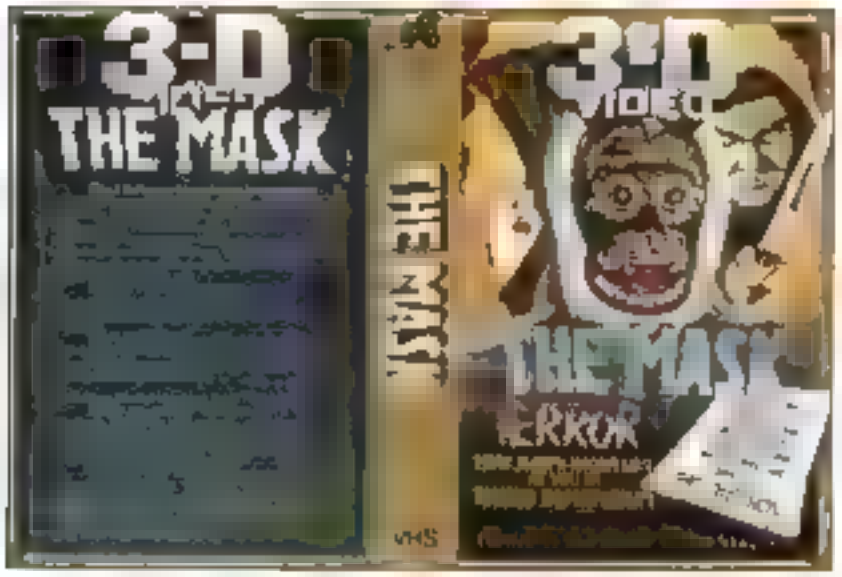
Director: **René Daalder**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Blackboard Massacre**

Massacre at Central High opened in UK cinemas with an 'X' rating during the summer of 1977 at around the same time that Punk Rock music was upsetting the establishment. In fact, director Daalder is alleged to have been the creator of the scene in **The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle** in which Sid Vicious sings 'My Way.'

A precursor to violent teen-angst high school movies like **Class of 1984** and **Heathers**, it was issued to the British video rental market in 1982. Subsequent editions have been passed uncut by the BBFC, and it can currently be purchased on DVD.

Massacre at Central High is a run-of-the-mill post-**Friday the 13th** slasher movie with an early appearance by the hard-working Robert Carradine, son of genre legend John Carradine and star of over seventy features in his own right.

Releasing video company Merlin was co-run by Martin Myers, and Edward Ellman of Cantley Film Services, Dublin. Distribution of Merlin tapes was handled by VCL Communications, who were eventually bought by Virgin Vision for an undisclosed sum in November 1985.



MASSACRE MANSION
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP059**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **28 June 1983**
Running Time: **82m 47s**

Director: **Michael Pataki**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **Mansion of the Doomed**, **The Terror of Dr. Chaney**

VIPCO submitted this disquietingly effective horror film about eye-transplants to the BBFC in April 1983, with the intention of releasing it theatrically. It was passed '18' with no cuts. A video release swiftly followed, with an '18' label on the cover. Technically speaking this label was meaningless however, as the film had not actually been submitted for a specific video rating - the VRA was still in the planning stages and as such there was no formal BBFC ratings system for home video.

Massacre Mansion was a rarity for VIPCO in that this was a small box release. It would also prove to be one their final video releases of the Eighties, as the pressure exerted

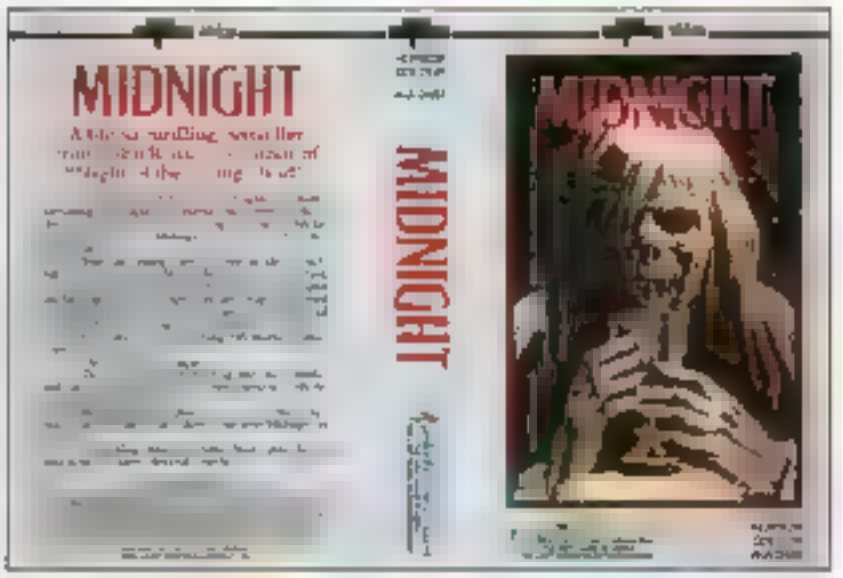
on the company by bad publicity due to many well-documented run-ins with the law started to affect VIPCO's turnover. Many dealers were becoming wary of handling the notoriously contentious catalogue put together by British video pioneer Mike Lee, and by April 1984 the decision was made to call in the receivers and wind-up operations.

The early Nineties saw the VIPCO brand re-launched, and many of their previous titles, which now required BBFC certification, were submitted to the censorship board for re-release. **Massacre Mansion** was eventually discontinued, but it briefly re-appeared on DVD under its original title, **Mansion of the Doomed**. This release too now appears to be out of print.

The film's director Michael Pataki is much better known for his work in front of the camera, having acted in more than seventy feature films including the superlative chiller **Dead and Buried**, a some-time member of the video nasties hit-list, but not one of the final 'DPP 39'. Its ubiquitous artwork did not make it into the main part of the book as it has been re-used endlessly on a multitude of DVD re-issues.

MIDNIGHT
Video Label: **Alpha**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0451**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1983**
Running Time: **88m 15s**

Director: **John Russo**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Backwoods Massacre**



This film marked the second time behind the camera for Russo, who is better known to most as the writer of George A. Romero's **Night of the Living Dead**. Executive producer of **Midnight**, Sam Sherman, had a hand in the making of some of the wildest zero-budget American exploitation gems of the Seventies, mostly in conjunction with cult director Al Adamson, whose **Dracula v Frankenstein** is covered elsewhere in this book.

Stanley Long's Alpha Films had a successful distribution arrangement with Intervision, and were purchased outright in a deal announced during June 1982, following the completion of negotiations at that year's Cannes Film Festival. They acquired **Midnight** for theatrical distribution later the same year, and the BBFC passed it with an '18' certificate, without cuts. Soon after, Alpha issued the film on video.

It would appear that a slightly truncated version of **Midnight** had been submitted to the BBFC, as it lacked some brief snippets of violent footage found in other releases. An even shorter version was issued by VIPCO in 1993, but this is now out of print.

THE NESTING
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP043**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **99m 03s**

Director: **Armand Weston**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Phobia**

Following a ten year stint working in the adult film industry (during which time he made the S&M classic **The Defiance of Good**, starring Fred J. Lincoln of **The Last House on the Left** infamy), director Armand Weston turned his attention to this interesting but neglected horror picture. Had **The Nesting** played in British cinemas, it might well have become a moderate success.

VIPCO debuted their video release in October 1982 and it was stocked by the majority of rental stores. It was not on shelves for long though, because with the introduction of the Video Recordings Act (VRA) in 1984, store owners were given a three-year period to make sure that every uncertificated video was permanently withdrawn from sale or hire.

Warner later acquired this film for the UK, and it was classified '18' uncut by the BBFC in December 1986, but this release was also deleted a few years later. **The Nesting** has sadly not been made available since.

The film was originally going to be called **Phobia** but the producers of John Huston's film of the same name threatened legal action. The cast includes the insanely prolific John Carradine (his resumé stretches to 250 credits!). Also of note is an appearance by actress Gloria Grahame, this was her last film in a forty year career. She died of cancer before the film was released.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT AFTER NIGHT
Video Label: **Vision-On**
Catalogue Number: **VOV038**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **84m 41s**

Director: **Lindsay Shonteff (as Lewis J. Force)**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1969**
aka: **He Kills Night After Night After Night**, **Night Slasher**

This **Psycho**-inspired slasher appeared in UK cinemas during 1970 courtesy of Butchers Films. Credited to 'Lewis J Force', it had actually been directed by Lindsay Shonteff, a truly independent maverick director who always refused to work within the studio system. Despite these self-imposed limitations, Shonteff was actually quite prolific, with over twenty directorial credits to his name. Perhaps his most celebrated picture is 1964's **Devil Doll**, a superb 'possessed ventriloquist's dummy' movie.

Night After Night After Night was released no less than four times on video in the UK, with the Video Playback edition coming out in September 1982, only a few months after the Vision-On tape, which remains the most popular release among collectors. It is currently unavailable on any home video format.

NIGHT OF THE BLOODY APES
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 218**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1983**
Running Time: **79m 19s**

Director: **Rene Cardona**
Country of Production: **Mexico**
Year of Production: **1968**
aka: **La horripilante bestia humana**, **Horror y sexo**, **Gomar, the Human Gorilla**

This late Sixties Mexican wrestling movie, interspersed with actual open-heart surgery footage, really did play in UK cinemas. It was granted a BBFC 'X' rating after some cuts, although this did not happen until 1974.

Almost ten years later, John Parry's Iver Film Services ('The professionals at Pinewood') issued this uncensored version, which reinstated all of the extreme gore missing from the film's theatrical release prints. It's hard to believe that such a crude exploitation movie from 1968 could be found obscene under the terms of the OPA, but like 1964's **Blood Feast**, it was successfully prosecuted.

The film eventually re-surfaced in the UK during 1999 when Steven Haynes's Sovereign Multimedia submitted it for video classification. Unfortunately a censored version was supplied, and it's this version that is now available on British DVD. An uncensored disc is available from the USA.

NIGHT OF THE DEMON
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 173**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **91m 54s**

Director: **James C. Wasson**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**

Definitely not to be confused with Jacques Tourneur's celebrated movie of the same name (aka **Curse of the Demon**), this low-on-budget but high-on-gore Bigfoot feature was filmed in 1980, and ended up in British video rental stores in 1982, packaged in a cover that boasted 'this film contains scenes of extreme and explicit violence.'

Rather strangely, three Bigfoot movies ended up on the banned lists of the 1980s, the others being **Don't Go in the Woods... Alone!** and **The Werewolf and the Yeti**.

Night of the Demon became most well-known among fans for one particular leg-crossing scene of graphic violence, which is best left discovered by the adventurous viewer. Unfortunately the scene in question was trimmed by the BBFC when VIPCO submitted it for video classification in 1994 (the certificated version is 1 minute 41 seconds shorter than the original Iver release), and the chances of finding this increasingly rare tape today are very small indeed.

NIGHT OF THE SEAGULLS
Video Label: **Archer**
Catalogue Number: **AR2009**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **84m 47s**

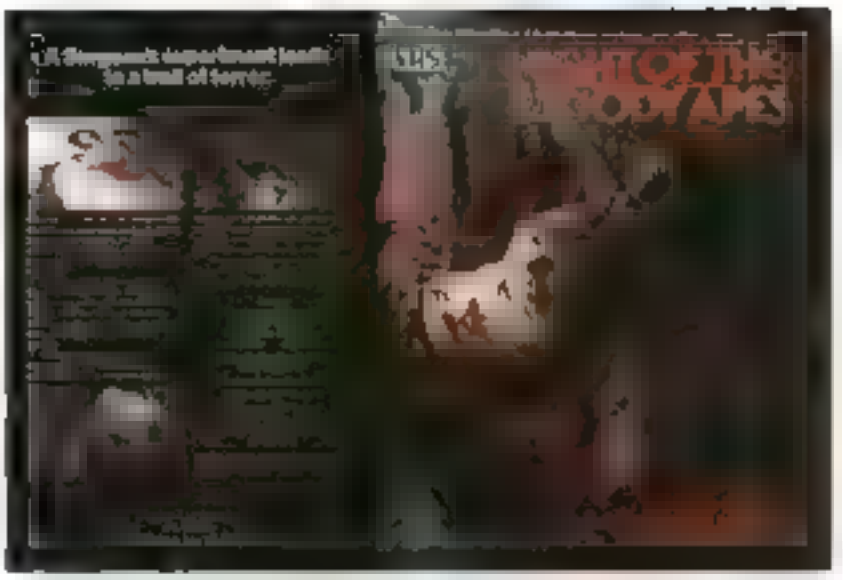
Director: **Amando De Ossorio**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **La noche de los gaviotas**, **The Night of the Sea Gulls**; **Night of the Death Cult**, **Don't Go Out at Night**

This was the last entry in Amando De Ossorio's atmospheric and much-loved 'Blind Dead' series, and all but one (**Ghost Galleon**) ended up on the shelves of Britain's video stores during the 1980s. The first film in the series, **Tombs of the Blind Dead**, had actually made it to British cinemas, where it picked up something of a respectable cult following

colouring a work from the video nasty era

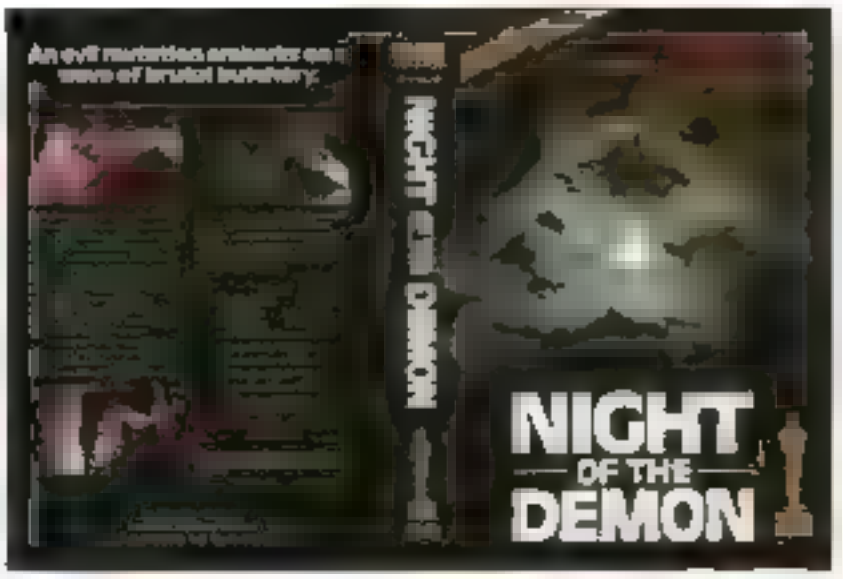
Archer who were distributed by London-based Mountain Video, issued **Night of the Seagulls** in an American 'R'-rated version, which appears to be intact.

A re-release found its way into rental stores in 1987 when Kontiki issued it as **Don't Go Out at Night**. Unfortunately, it had been subjected to cuts of 1 minute 6 seconds in order for it to be granted an '18' certificate. Due to the moral panic which still had a tight grip on the nation at the time of the film's certification the BBFC acted in a somewhat over-zealous manner indeed most horror titles from this period were usually subjected to unnecessarily stringent levels of censorship.



NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIES
Video Label: **Apple**
Catalogue Number: **APV118**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **March 1983**
Running Time: **75m 08s**

Director: **Joel M. Reed**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Gamma 693**; **The Chilling**



Night of the Zombies is the second of independent exploitation specialist Joel M. Reed's movies to feature in this book (he also made **Blood Bath**), and this was his last directorial effort. Acquired from who-knows-where by Aberdeen-based Shuttle Video, it was issued in July 1982 with a self imposed 'X' rating to perhaps generate some more interest amongst the video renting public. The film was paired up with **Psycho from Texas**, another early '80s American obscurity featuring 'Scream Queen' Linnea Quigley.

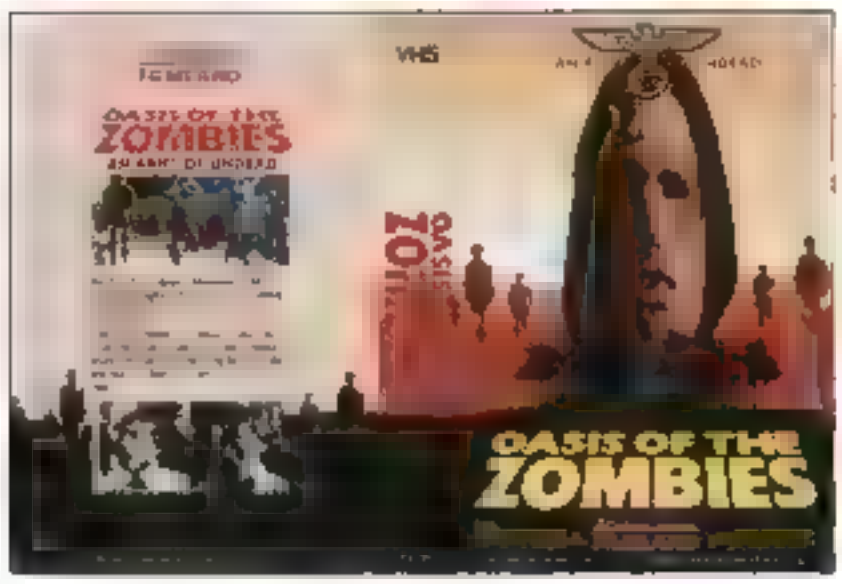
Within a year of its Shuttle debut, the film had been re-issued by Apple Video, who were set up in 1982 by ex-World of Video 2000 director Ray Linton. Apple were around for long enough to issue approximately twenty titles, most of which appear to have been mastered from old censored British cinema release prints. A couple of their other releases, **Creatures of Evil** and its companion piece **Curse of Death** would later re-appear on the suspect VTI label, both with "An Apple Video presentation" on-screen at the end of the film.

Night of the Zombies was re-issued again, briefly, by Tango, who used Apple's video sleeve design, before vanishing from video stores until 1986 when it was submitted to the BBFC for official approval. This time around it briefly re-appeared as **The Chilling**, having been granted an uncut '15' certificate.

Night of the Zombies is interesting mainly because it stars legendarily depraved porn actor Jamie Gillis, who in the same year managed to appear in no less than ten adult movies.

NIGHTMARE CITY
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1006**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **March 1982**
Running Time: **87m 36s**

Director: **Umberto Lenzi**
Country of Production: **Italy, Spain**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Incubo sulla città contaminata**; **La invasión de los zombies atómicos**; **City of the Walking Dead**



Video Tape Center (VTC) was launched at the Manchester Software Show in April 1982, with an ambitious initial batch of thirteen titles - one of which was **Nightmare City**. It was joined by an eclectic bunch including **Hitch-Hike**, and the spaghetti westerns **Sartana** and **A Man Called Blade**.

Made almost back-to-back with his cannibal movie **Eaten Alive**, this film was Umberto Lenzi's latest effort to fall into line with the prevailing attitude in the Italian independent film community at the time, which was quite simply to attempt to cash-in on whatever was currently popular. This time it just happened to be zombies.

Nightmare City arrived on video just two years after its Italian premiere, and VTC decided to play it safe by releasing a pre-cut version. More than one minute of violent footage was removed, and sure enough the film had no problems with the DPP. In fact the movie did very well, and it was re-issued (with even more of the film's violent footage cut out) in February 1984 as part of a double bill with **Alien Terror** - which itself was an Italian cash-in on... **Alien**!

When Stablecane submitted the film for video classification in 1986, over 3 minutes of cuts were requested. However, after some changes to the BBFC's guidelines due mainly to public consultation, **Nightmare City** was finally passed uncut on 13 January 2003.

NIGHTMARE MAKER

Video Label: **Atlantis Video Productions**
Catalogue Number: **AVP702**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **April 1983**
Running Time: **92m 25s**

Director: **William Asher**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Butcher, Baker, Nightmare Maker**, **Night Warning**, **Thrilled to Death**, **Momma's Boy**, **Evil Protégé**

It seems rather strange that the director of the **I Love Lucy** TV series and several Beach Party movies could ever make something that might one day find its way onto the DPP's list of banned videos, but that's exactly what happened to William Asher's 1981 feature, which was issued in two distinctive covers by Atlantis. Despite several undoubtedly shocking scenes this seems particularly unfair, as it is actually a gripping and fairly well-made horror thriller, which was even nominated for a Saturn award as 'Best Low-Budget Film' of the year.

Atlantis already had **Faces of Death** confirmed as a fully fledged 'nasty', but after various unsuccessful prosecutions, the demonisation of **Nightmare Maker** by the DPP was eventually abandoned just as the infamous final 39-title listing was published in December 1985, but by this time Atlantis was long gone, having been placed into administration during November 1984.

Even though the film had been officially removed from the banned list, it was still refused a classification certificate when submitted by Film View Video/Krypton Force in 1987. By then **Nightmare Maker** had been re-titled **Evil Protégé**, but because it had only recently had its place on the DPP's list rescinded, it was considered too soon for the BBFC to give the film its official seal of approval.

The hard-working Jan de Bont (director of **Speed** and **Lara Croft Tomb Raider**) did some work - uncredited - as a cinematographer on this film; in fact he allegedly shot the staggeringly effective car crash/decapitation scene.

NIGHTMARES IN A DAMAGED BRAIN

Video Label: **LU Productions**
Catalogue Number: **XF140**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **20 May 1982**
Running Time: **85m 51s**

Director: **Romano Scavolini**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: Nightmare; Blood Splash

David Hamilton-Grant's Oppidan distribution company were responsible for importing this controversial splatter movie into the UK, in April 1982. After the obligatory BBFC cuts, it was classified with an 'X' rating and was shown at a select few British cinemas.

Nightmares in a Damaged Brain was the first ever release from Larry Utall's LU Productions, so they staged a special screening of the film at London's Prince Charles Cinema. Sick bags were handed out to patrons, and there was even a staged stunt whereby ambulances were called after claims that two people passed out during the screening.

Within a few weeks, adverts appeared in the trade press promising "Another TERRIBLE film from World of Video 2000 90 minutes of TOTAL TERROR". A slightly more complete version of the film was made available on tape, and was promoted at venues across Britain with a 'guess the weight of the brain in the jar' competition. Hamilton-Grant's video rental company World of Video 2000 took on the job of promotion and distribution for the LU Productions brand, and it was WOV 2000 director Malcolm Fancey who presented a prize cheque of £50 to the competition winner. Along the way the promotion had attracted the wrong sort of attention however as Surrey police were actually called in to confiscate the brain when it was displayed outside a local hospital! The brain, incidentally, weighed in at 4870 grammes.

Unfortunately Hamilton-Grant was destined to be the person who would be made a scapegoat for the rest of the video rental industry. **Nightmares in a Damaged Brain** was successfully prosecuted under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act, and the unlucky company director became the only video distributor in the history of the industry to be sentenced to a jail sentence in Britain expressly for his part in this crime.

In March 2002, Carey Budnick's International Trading company submitted a shortened version to the BBFC, which was granted an '18' certificate without cuts. The uncut version is unavailable on DVD.

OASIS OF THE ZOMBIES

Video Label: **Filmland**
Catalogue Number: **FV101**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **15 February 1983**
Running Time: **78m 20s**

Director: **Jess Franco (as A.M. Frank)**
Country of Production: **Spain, France**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **La tumba de los muertos vivientes**; **L'abime des morts vivants**; **Oasis of the Living Dead**

This Jess Franco movie, acquired from Eurociné for UK video release by Peter Adams's Filmland Video, was another low-budget cash-in on the early '80s trend in zombie movies.

Oasis of the Zombies was originally slated to be an 'iver release - in fact some copies in circulation have a gold 'ver sticker on the tape itself - but it appeared on the Filmland label. The company managed to issue just two titles onto the video rental market, the other being a South African film entitled **The Winners** (also known as **High Stakes**), before going belly-up some time in 1983.

A more complete version of **Oasis of the Zombies** was submitted to the BBFC for video release in February 2004 by Arrow Films, and was passed uncut with a '15' certificate.

THE OTHER HELL

Video Label: **Inter-Light**
Catalogue Number: **ILV113**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **84m 43s**

Director: **Bruno Mattei (as Stefan Oblowsky)**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **L'altro Inferno**; **The Presence**

This sleazy 'nunsploitation' movie, made by Bruno Mattei during the same year that he directed **Zombie Creeping Flesh**, was issued to UK cinemas by Eagle Films in a version that had been cut in order to secure a BBFC 'X' rating.

Inter-Light films issued the same BBFC-approved version onto home video in 1983, and a few years later an alternate release appeared on the Tower Entertainment label, with a rather dubious looking '18' certificate.

When it was submitted for a genuine video classification certificate in 1995, Redemption Films were instructed to make the same 19 seconds of cuts as had been required before the previous 'X' certificate was granted. An uncut DVD is available from America.

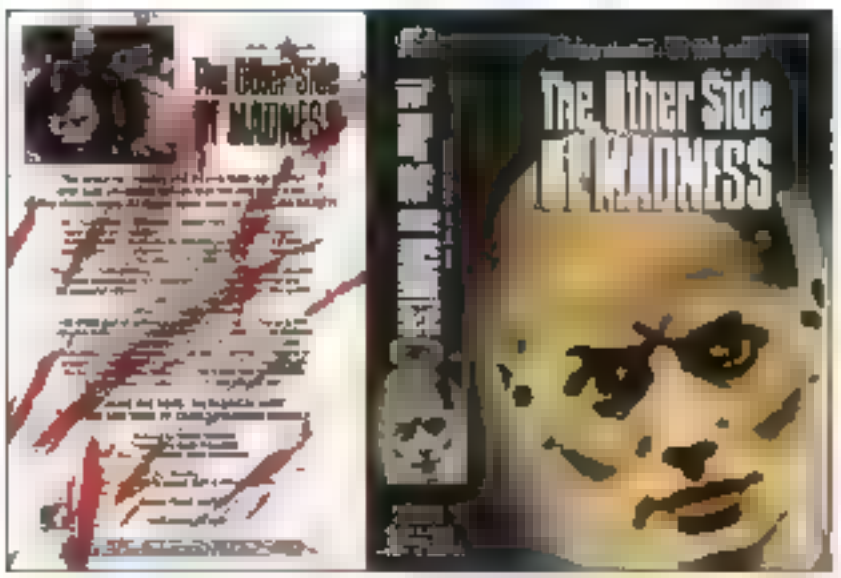
THE OTHER SIDE OF MADNESS

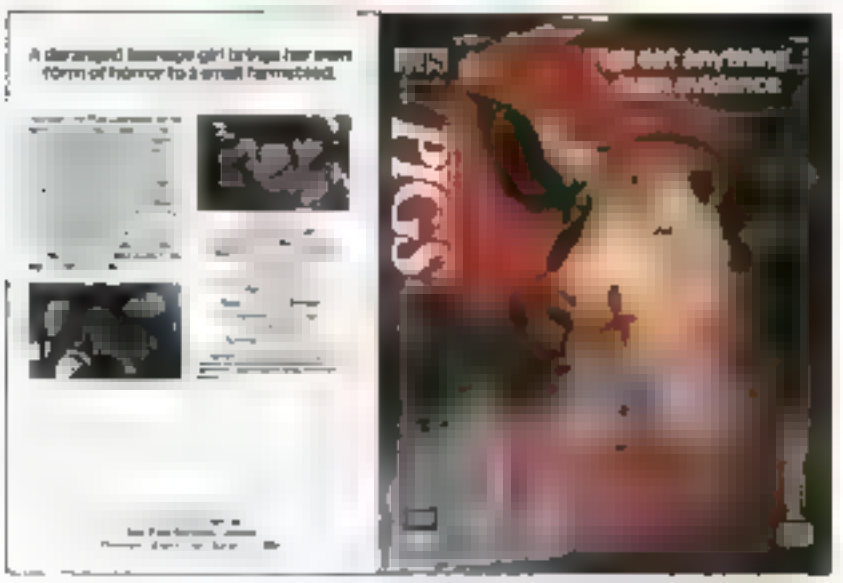
Video Label: **Worldwide**
Catalogue Number: **WW983**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1983**
Running Time: **81m 21s**

Director: **Frank Howard**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1970**
aka: **The Helter Skelter Murders**

This controversial take on the Manson family murders and the subsequent media-circus criminal trial was submitted to the BBFC in July 1983, with the intention of securing it a theatrical release. However the film was rejected outright, for reasons that are no longer entirely clear because at that time the Board was not required to put such information in writing. It is assumed that the submission simply came at a 'bad time' (i.e. in the middle of the 'nasties crisis), although BBFC director James Ferman is on record as having expressed his concern about 'this film proving a dangerous influence'.

The BBFC's rejection did not stop Worldwide from issuing the full uncut version onto the home video market the very same month, distributed by Palace, at around the same time that Palace's earlier video release - Sam





Raimi's **The Evil Dead** - was running into trouble up and down the country.

In common with many of the titles distributed during Palace's trailblazing early years, this video was packaged in a sturdy, stylish case complete with the Palace logo embossed on the inside front cover.

Despite the controversy surrounding the film's rejection for the British cinema, this video was never prosecuted, and the film has not been submitted for classification since. A DVD release is however available from the USA, as **The Helter Skelter Murders**.

PANIC
Video Label: **Video Independent Productions**
Catalogue Number: **VIP007**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **July 1984**
Running Time: **86m 48s**

Director: **Tonino Ricci (as Anthony Richmond)**
Country of Production: **Italy, Spain, Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Bakterion; Panico**

Video Independent Productions (VIP) had licensed a small but rather interesting package of titles from Italy. Unfortunately though they only managed to release six titles before going bust. Their planned seventh tape was to have been Anthony Richmond's **Panic**. This prime example of latter-day Euro-trash about chemical weapons with some average gore effects was never officially released, with only a small number of sales reps' cassettes having ever been manufactured. It is therefore, by default, one of the rarest sleeve designs reproduced in this book.

The reason for this last-minute cancellation might be explained by the fact that at the time of its proposed release the Video Recordings Act had just been made law. Many of the smaller video releasing companies could not afford the suddenly-imposed BBFC submission fees - which were certainly not cheap - and decided to call it a day. **Panic** would appear to be one of the first casualties of this situation.

The film eventually appeared on the Broadway Films label sporting a fake BBFC '18' certificate (it had not been formally submitted for certification). During the early days of the VRA - and indeed in the run-up to its implementation - many companies printed '18' labels on their covers as a voluntary guideline. Broadway issued just two films on video before sinking without trace.

VIP titles were distributed by Akil Faruk's Video Home Selections commencing with their fifth release, **Eagles Over London**. **Thor the Conqueror** followed, but the company went on to suffer several aborted releases. In addition to the problem with **Panic**, a film entitled **Unconscious** was announced for release on VIP before coming out via a rival company - though when it appeared on the Mr. Video label its title had been changed to **Satan's Altar**. This tape is also featured in these pages.

PIGS
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 176**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **79m 43s**

Director **Marc Lawrence**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka: **The Strange Exorcism of Lynn Hart; Horror Farm; Daddy's Deadly Darling**, **Daddy's Girls**

Pigs director Marc Lawrence is better known for his extensive work in front of the camera, having been much in demand as a character actor since the Thirties.

Pigs (which is strictly a video release title - it was produced as **Daddy's Deadly Darling**) was one of just half a dozen directorial credits for Lawrence, whose many film roles included a part in **Cataclysm** which is also included in this book.

Iver Film Services (IFS) issued this horror oddity just before Christmas of 1982, and it quickly proved to be a very popular title no doubt due in part to its striking cover design. A re-issue popped up in 1987 with the new title **Horror Farm**, but since then the film has sunk into oblivion.

IFS has been dormant since ceasing trading at the end of 1983. Video facilities house Treefold Productions purchased the company and its catalogue of 150 titles on 28 October 1985.

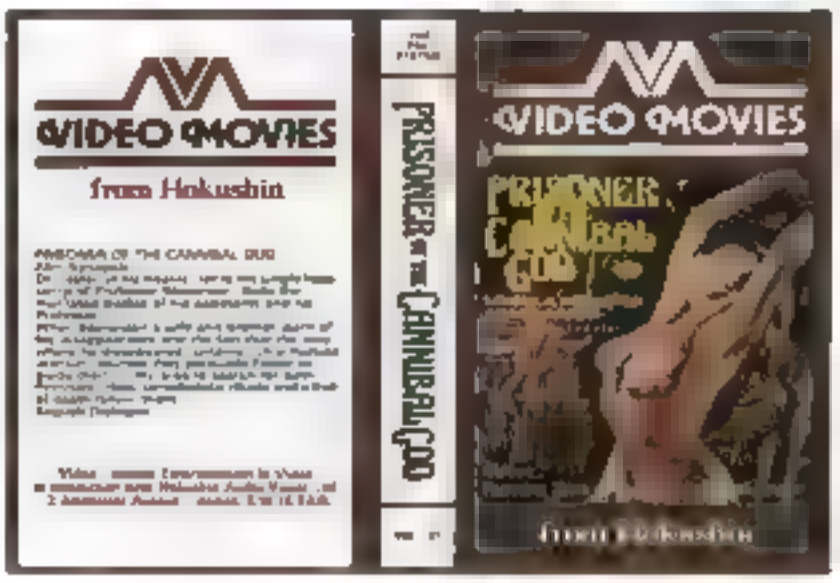
POOR WHITE TRASH
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0481**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1983**
Running Time: **80m 17s**

Director: **S.F Brownrigg**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Scum of the Earth**, **Poor White Trash Part II**

Sporting a cover you couldn't easily pass by in a video rental store without paying attention, this hillbilly exploitation gem was originally released to US cinemas as **Scum of the Earth**. However, when marketing genius Mike Ripps got involved he decided to cash-in on the success of the 1957 movie **Bayou** which he had made into a hit after deciding to cleverly market it under the new title **Poor White Trash**. Ripps decided to extend this bright idea by re-titling **Scum of the Earth** as **Poor White Trash Part II** and it's this re-issue version that was picked-up and released onto the UK video market in 1983 by Intervision. Plainly a little unsure about what they were actually handling due to all this re-titling, Intervision actually put the title **Poor White Trash** on the front cover and the spine, but referred to the film by its correct (re)title of **Poor White Trash Part II** in the small print on the back cover.

Confused? Nowhere near as baffled as you will be if you decide to seek out the other movies directed by low-budget auteur S.F. Brownrigg, most of which are barely-coherent psychological horrors firmly grounded in the oppressive backwoods world of poverty-stricken rural Southern States homes. Not exactly life-affirming, but definitely atmospheric, his films are best described as an acquired taste.

This was Brownrigg's second feature, although he is perhaps better known for his later 'video nasty', **Don't Look in the Basement**, which has received the better distribution of the two over the years. Brownrigg's last movie was the 1982 comedy **Thinkin' Big**.



POSSESSION
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1031**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **118m 23s**

Director: **Andrzej Zulawski**
Country of Production: **France, West Germany**
Year of Production: **1981**

Though never a big hit, either theatrically or on video, Andrzej Zulawski's extraordinary, hysterically confrontational horror film has built up a very strong reputation over the years. It is a film built for the cliché 'once seen never forgotten', and it seems that certain law-enforcement officers were of the same opinion, as Video Tape Center's tape was targeted for prosecution under the terms of the Obscene Publications Act.

Possession first appeared on the DPP list in October 1983 but was removed a year later following a high-profile case during September 1984 in which a jury cleared it of obscenity charges by a majority of 11 to 1. VTC wisely withdrew the film from circulation during this period, and waited until it was finally confirmed that the courts would be considering no further action against it before going ahead with a re-release. VTC put the film back onto the market with a toned-down painted cover in December 1984.

The first VTC sleeve appears to have been printed back-to-front (the 'front' cover has the plot synopsis, while the 'back' cover has the unforgettable tentacle-sex scene that no doubt contributed to the video's seizure). This is almost certainly due to a printing error, so for the purposes of our main illustration in this book we have, technically, printed the back cover!

VTC issued the fully intact version, but **Possession** was subjected to severe cutting and re-editing for the North American market. The first version seen there and in several other countries was almost half an hour shorter but intriguingly the alternative cut of the film actually contains some rather startling shots that are not present at all in the director's cut, so the increasingly rare tapes featuring the alternative cut are also very collectable. The American DVD showcases the director's cut.

PRANKS
Video Label: **Canon**
Catalogue Number: **CV002**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **10 June 1982**
Running Time: **81m 31s**

Director: **Jeffrey Obrow & Stephen Carpenter**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **The Dorm that Dripped Blood**, **Death Dorm**

Canon Video's second release was this low budget slasher, which was distributed by Video Programme Distributors Ltd. VPD was established by Brian Payne (formerly manager of Magnetic Europe) on 3 November 1980, and the company soon became one of the major players in the rapidly expanding British video market. Their turnover in the first 12 months was reported to have been £2.65 Million, and they went on to more success, bolstered by the addition to their roster of other important cult movie specialists such as Cinehollywood, Inter-Ocean, Media and Replay.

Pranks spent more than two years on the DPP's banned list, but was eventually dropped after it was realised that, not only was it a relatively tame horror film with remarkably few violent scenes, but also that there were plenty of other titles on the market that were far more easy to successfully prosecute.

VPD eventually submitted the film for video classification in 1992, and cuts of 10 seconds were required to secure its release. It's this same edited version that is currently available on DVD from VIPCO.

Pranks is interesting today for little more than the fact that it marked the first film role for actress Daphne (**A-List**) Zuniga.

PRISONER OF THE CANNIBAL GOD
Video Label: **Hokushin**
Catalogue Number: **VM27**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **1981**
Running Time: **92m 17s**

Director: **Sergio Martino**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1978**
aka: **La montagna del dio cannibale**, **Mountain of the Cannibal God**, **Slave of the Cannibal God**

Prisoner of the Cannibal God is a real anomaly - an Italian cannibal movie with a star cast. It's remarkable that Jrsula Andress and Stacy Keach agreed to appear in this nasty piece of exploitation, but they sure did - and Andress even agreed to perform naked in some scenes.

What's even more amusing is the fact that it was released theatrically at the end of 1978 by the now-mighty Entertainment Film Distributors, after the BBFC had made some rather hefty cuts to the many scenes of animal violence.

Hokushin Audio Visual had an output deal with Entertainment which enabled them to issue their titles onto the home video market. This release appeared in rental stores in 1981, and featured the same BBFC-approved theatrical version. Like the other cannibal movies issued on video at the time, this tape was slated for possible prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act, but nothing came of it so the video was dropped from the list.

VIPCO formally submitted the film for video certification in 2001, and cuts of just over 2 minutes were required to remove all the scenes of genuine cruelty to animals. An uncut DVD is available from the US which reinstates jaw-dropping scenes of bestiality which were previously thought to be little more than bizarre rumours. In this case fact really was stranger than fiction.

RANA - THE CREATURE FROM SHADOW LAKE
Video Label: **Mountain**
Catalogue Number: **VCF 2/100**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **10 March 1983**
Running Time: **88m 58s**

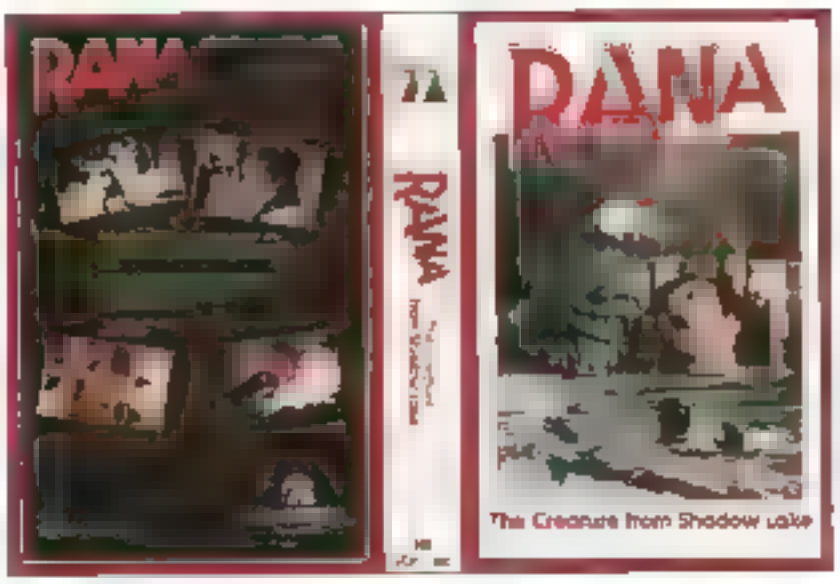
Director: **Bill Rebane**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1975**
aka: **Rana - The Legend of Shadow Lake**, **Croaked: Frog Monster from Hell**

Rana was made the same year as **The Giant Spider Invasion**, another of director Bill Rebane's efforts (other examples of his craft include **The Alpha Incident** and **The Capture of Bigfoot**). One can only assume that his movies were cheap to acquire for the home video market. After all these were relatively recent productions back in 1983.

If nothing else, Mountain made eclectic choices when shopping for product, as they released **Rana** onto the rental market at the same time as **Elvis In Concert!**

Two releases of **Rana** appeared on the UK rental market, the second of which was from Portland. It has a snazzy but generic cover (reproduced in the alternative covers section of this book), however the tape contains an inferior version of the film, running 8 minutes shorter than the Mountain print.

To date nobody has submitted the film for formal video classification in the UK. A DVD is available in the US, issued by low-budget exploitation specialists Troma.



RINGS OF FEAR
Video Label: **Video Film Promotions**
Catalogue Number: **VFP003**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **81m 07s**

Director: **Alberto Negrin**
Country of Production: **Italy, West Germany, Spain**
Year of Production: **1978**
aka: **Enigma rosso; Trafico de menores; Red Rings of Fear; Virgin Terror; Trauma; Orgia das Todes**

This Euro-sleaze cocktail involving schoolgirls and a secrecy pact was shown in British cinemas during 1979 as **Red Rings of Fear**, courtesy of continental pick-up specialist Bordeaux Films. Of course, with a movie of this nature the BBFC insisted on cuts before an 'X' rating was granted.

Video Film Promotions had acquired a mixed-bag of Italian movies, and this was the third they released uncut onto video, ignoring - and probably not even aware of - the fact that it had been passed 'X' with cuts for the cinema. The other two early VFP releases were the obscure 'sword and sandals' epic **Sword of the Barbarians** and their first tape of all, **Anthropophagous the Beast**, which is also included in this book. The company was set up in February 1983 by Tahir Farooq, a former employee of Gulf Video.

Rings of Fear re-surfaced on video in 1987 under the title **Virgin Terror**, and in this instance cuts of 14 seconds were required for its '18' rating.

RITUALS
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **V0320**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **95m 14s**

Director: **Peter Carter**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **The Creeper**

This effective Canadian shocker starring Hal Holbrook has some similarities to **Deliverance**, but this is strictly a horror movie. It was issued by Italian distributor Cinehollywood, who had agreed an exclusive UK distribution deal with VPD.

For reasons best known to the two companies, the entire Cinehollywood catalogue of seventy titles was unleashed in the UK all at once, during November 1981.

Sadly **Rituals** has never been re-issued in Britain making Cinehollywood's tapes all the more collectable. An uncut print of the film was however made available in Canada, where it came out on the Astral Video label. American tapes on the Embassy Home Entertainment label can also be found, but these are best avoided as they contain what is assumed to be a TV print, which in addition to being cut for violent content, is missing all of the profane dialogue.

This tape's foreign origin is readily apparent if you read the strap-line on the cover, which features our favourite typographic error on any of the designs included in this book - "The Spirit of Delwerance!"

SATAN WAR
Video Label: **Surrey**
Catalogue Number: **MAV047**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **76m 13s**

Director: **Bart La Rue**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Satanwar**

They really do not come any more obscure than this truly bizarre oddity, which comes across as a sort of pseudo documentary about the forces of evil.

Director, producer and editor Bart La Rue was actually an actor by trade, having appeared in various TV shows throughout the Sixties. His most notable appearances were in episodes of **Star Trek** and **Mission Impossible**. La Rue died in 1990, so it seems highly unlikely that anything will ever be discovered about how and why he came to direct this movie.

Satanwar (the actual on-screen title of the film is a single word) appears to have been issued by Surrey Video Cycle (SVC) and was originally intended to have been part of their 'Gamma Chronicles' series of documentaries about various paranormal subjects. This video was not however packaged to match the rest of the series, and was eventually distributed by Markel Video.

SATAN'S ALTAR
Video Label: **Mr. Video**
Catalogue Number: **PA017**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1985**
Running Time: **87m 34s**

Director: **Riccardo Freda (as Robert Hampton)**
Country of Production: **Italy, France**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Follia omicida**; **L'ossessione che uccide**; **Fear Delirio**; **Murder Obsession**; **Unconscious, The Wailing**

Mr. Video were based in Willesden, London, and many of their tapes appear to have been re-releases of films actually licensed by Techno Film/Fletcher Go and PMA, with newly generated video titles. It's probable that changes like this were done as a crude form of disguise in order to prevent

the rights owner from discovering that their movie had been issued illegally, without a license agreement in place. As video was a new medium in the early Eighties, many rights owners were slow to realise they were able to make money out of older film investments.

Satan's Altar was no exception, and is better known to fans of European horror as **Murder Obsession.** This release rather strangely replaced the original music with a new synth-score. And although the back cover art featured a prominent '18' certificate, at the time of this video's release the film had never been classified by the BBFC, so the age-restriction was in place purely for guidance purposes, or perhaps to make the local Trading Standards Officer believe it was a real BBFC certificate, and hence a legitimate release.

A duly-approved re-release finally appeared in 1987, after the film was passed by the BBFC as an '18' certificate with cuts totalling 1 minute 18 seconds. This time it had been re-titled as **The Walling**.

SATAN'S BLADE
Video Label: **Mogul**
Catalogue Number: **6500**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **29 January 1984**
Running Time: **75m 48s**

Director: **L. Scott Castillo Jr**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1982**

Here's another one-movie wonder, this time from the supremely untalented L. Scott Castillo Jr. Although the official implementation of the Video Recordings Act was still some time off when this tape was issued, that was no guarantee that a film would be released uncut, as was the case here. Disappointed viewers were faced with a heavily-bowdlerised version of the film.

Made in 1982, **Satan's Blade** was issued to the video rental market after being launched at the January 1984 London Video Software Show by Mogul Video, actually just another label set up by Des Dolan of Go Video. Mogul came into operation shortly after he had established distribution outlets in both the UK and US.

SATAN'S SLAVE
Video Label: **Brent Walker**
Catalogue Number: **BW13**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **81m 56s**

Director: **Norman J. Warren**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1976**

Following a couple of sexploitation quickies, British director Warren moved onto this, his first horror picture. It was picked up for theatrical distribution by Brent Walker and was released at the end of 1976 with BBFC cuts and an 'X' rating.

During filming, Warren was asked by the producers to shoot an alternate 'harder' take of the bedroom scene for continental audiences. This was a common working practice for exploitation movies being made at that time, as it helped with sales of these movies in foreign territories where stronger scenes of sex and violence than were permissible in Britain were expected.

Satan's Slave was one of the very first titles to appear on the Intervision label back in 1979, and rather surprisingly they managed to get hold of the stronger continental version. This release was made available in a generic carton, which can be seen in the alternative covers section of this book. Several years later, Brent Walker issued the original British theatrical cut of the movie through their distribution agreement with VideoSpace, packaged within the stylish occult-tinged cover shown in the book's main section.

The current UK DVD features an uncut print of Warren's preferred 'soft' version of the movie.

SAVAGE INTRUDER
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP045**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **86m 53s**

Director: **Donald Wolfe**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1968**
aka: **Hollywood Horror House**; **The Comeback**

The violent image which adorned the cover of VIPCO's earlier **The Driller Killer** video was clearly a success, so why not continue the trend with this title? 'He hacks and chops through flesh and bone' - sounds familiar?

Lurking behind this similarly styled cover is the re-titled **Hollywood Horror House**, a movie which bears more than a passing resemblance to **Sunset Boulevard**. Several Tinseltown movie veterans make appearances, and the film is also distinguished by virtue of the fact that it is graced by Miriam Hopkins's last performance.

Savage Intruder was distributed to British cinemas (after being subjected to 4 seconds of cuts) by industry veteran Maxine Julius's Lazer Films. This happened at the same time that VIPCO ("the people who brought you **The Driller Killer**") issued their video onto the rental market. VIPCO later re-issued it as a sell-through title in the Nineties.

SAVAGE TERROR
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO127**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1982**
Running Time: **86m 36s**

Director: **Sisworo Gautama Putra**
Country of Production: **Indonesia**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Primitif**; **Primitives**

This Indonesian production is little more than a blatant rip-off of Ruggero Deodato's **Last Cannibal World**, and its cheap-jack conception and execution is exemplified by the fact that it goes as far as borrowing most of its soundtrack direct from Kraftwerk's *Man Machine* album. Somehow the idea that this music was licensed and approved seems laughable.

The film's director was something of a horror specialist, just a few years later also making **Nyi blorong** (aka **The**

Hungry Snake Woman) and **Pangabdi setan** (aka **Satan's Slave** - which should not be confused with the Norman J. Warren film of the same name, also featured in this book).

Retitled for the UK by Das Dolan at Go Video, the uncut version of **Savage Terror** was released onto the video market in 1982. If it were submitted to the BBFC for classification today, it would require cuts to its numerous scenes of animal butchery

SEIZURE!
Video Label: **Astra**
Catalogue Number **WV020**
Format **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time **80m 24s**

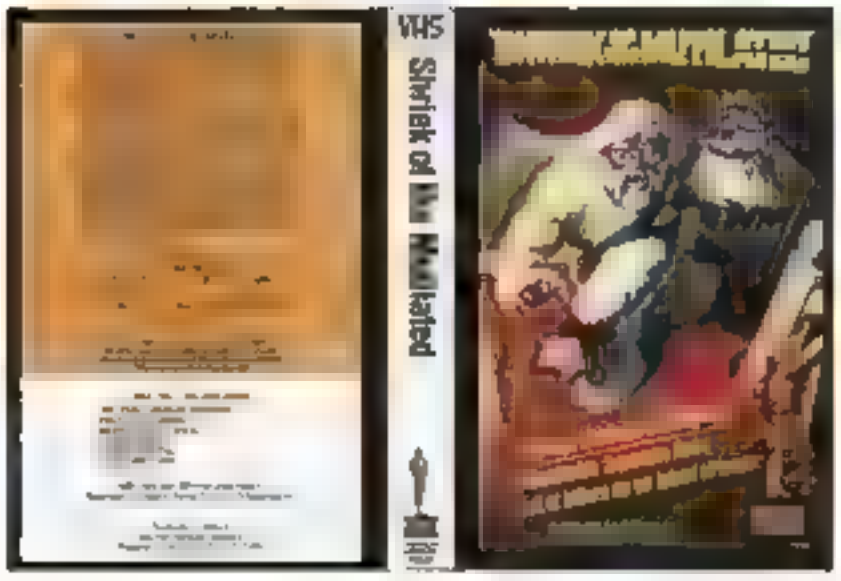
Director **Oliver Stone**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1973**
aka: **Queen of Evil**

Oliver Stone's laughable 'PG'-rated debut is estimated to have been made for a budget of barely 250,000 Canadian dollars. If the film did not mark such a surprisingly inauspicious start to a monumentally important directing career it is unlikely that anyone today would even know it had ever existed. In addition to featuring the talents of Mary Woronov - a cult figure who had enjoyed a spell collaborating with The Velvet Underground and was a much-discussed member of Andy Warhol's Factory scene - the film is graced by the presence of former Hammer starlet Martine Beswick as the Queen of Evil, and Hervé ('Nick Nack') Villechaize as Spider, the dwarf.

Seizure! first appeared in Britain when it was picked up for theatrical release by Marron Films during 1976. The version that was seen in British cinemas was complete unlike the print that was used to master the Astra Video release in September 1982. For some reason this tape is missing approximately three and a half minutes, and not to censor cuts.

Unknown to the staff at Astra, the company was in its last year of trading when this video was issued; the company went into liquidation during August 1983 owing "a six figure sum"

When RCA/Columbia re-issued **Seizure!** in 1988, all of the missing footage was restored, and the film was released under the title **Queen of Evil**.



SHOCK
Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number **HVM1019**
Format **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1981**
Running Time **82m 10s**

Director **Mario Bava**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1977**
aka **Beyond the Door 2**

Italian horror master Mario Bava's last feature film was first seen in selected UK cinemas during 1978, thanks to genre-friendly distributors Eagle Films. It had been classified 'X' by the BBFC, and no cuts were required.

Videomedia issued **Shock** onto video in May 1981, where it joined the other horror titles on their specialist Vampix label, which had been launched in Autumn 1980. Videomedia was established by Maureen Bartlett, and they were based at the Film Stock Centre on London's Wardour Street - just up the road from Des Dolan's Go Video, in fact.

After the Video Recordings Act was made law, **Shock** was acquired by Stablecane and was issued in 1985. A DVD is currently available.

SHRIEK OF THE MUTILATED
Video Label: **Ivar Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 131**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1982**
Running Time: **81m 10s**

Director: **Michael Findlay**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1974**

Yet more trashy drive-in fodder from Ivar Film Services, this one is memorable for having one of the better exploitation movie titles. Pity then that it's just a very average Bigfoot movie.

Shriek of the Mutilated was written by Ed Adlum & Ed Kelleher, also responsible for **Invasion of the Blood Farmers** - covered elsewhere in this book - and rather surprisingly, it was directed by Michael Findlay, whose next movie was the legendary (but equally awful) **Snuff**. Findlay was killed on the 16th of May 1977, when a helicopter's landing gear collapsed, resulting in his decapitation.

This early video release version features the original music score, which includes the top ten hit 'Popcorn' by Hot Butter. The song was replaced in the recent US DVD release due to worries about copyright infringement.

THE SLAYER
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP036**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **June 1982**
Running Time: **86m 01s**

Director: **J.S. Cardone**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka: **Nightmare Island**

This 1981-lensed low budget slasher movie was Cardone's debut, and it set the tone for the director's future endeavours - he has made ten films to date, all of which are low-budget schlock.

The Slayer first started to appear on British video rental store shelves in June of 1982. It was an early entry on the DPP's hit list, but was dropped in April 1985 despite some successful prosecutions. By this time the film was of course a must-see for horror fans, most of whom would have to wait until 1992, which is when Mike Lee's re-formed VIPCO submitted it for video classification. Fourteen seconds of cuts were needed before it was granted an '18' certificate.

When VIPCO re-submitted the film fully uncut in the Summer of 2001, it was finally passed without further BBFC interference, and it's this version that is currently available on DVD.

SNUFF
Video Label: **Astra**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1982**
Running Time: **76m 39s**

Director: **Roberta Findlay, Michael Findlay, Horacio Fredriksson, Simon Nuchtern**
Country of Production: **Argentina, USA**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Slaughter, American Cannibals, El Ángel de la muerte**

Filmed as **Slaughter** back in 1971 by husband and wife team Roberta and Michael Findlay, this film was destined to sit on distributor Alan Shackleton's shelf for five years. When he heard rumours about so-called 'snuff movies', in which people were murdered on camera, he decided that he might be able to make a success of **Slaughter** by adding some new footage shot in a seedy New York apartment.

To give the scam a hint of credibility, the producers removed all cast and crew credits from the print, and even set up fake protests outside theatres showing the film, which was now called **Snuff**. It made a sizeable profit, even though once viewed it became apparent that the snuff footage was fake. When the film made its way onto video however, it was a little more convincing. Suddenly a video of a 'snuff movie' seemed a possibility - particularly by Britain's tabloid press and moral guardians, who raged about **Snuff** the ultimate video nasty. To date, there has been no confirmed case of a genuine snuff movie, but the urban myth remains strong, and the tape that appeared briefly in British video stores is partly responsible.

Quoted in *Video Business*, Astra boss Mike Behr said "Of course it's not a real 'snuff' movie, we're not totally mad. It's a publicity stunt." He stated that because he knew how controversial it was going to be, they were only planning to keep the video on the market for about a month, having taken advance orders for 2,500 units. However, following his problems with the authorities concerning **I Spit on Your Grave**, Behr was advised by his solicitor that under no circumstances was he to attempt to distribute **Snuff**. Astra took his advice, and swiftly placed a quarter-page trade press announcement about the video in the 3rd of June 1982 edition of *Video Trade Weekly*. Behr then went out of his way to state to press and trade alike that Astra had withdrawn **Snuff** from sale in the UK before any cassettes found their way onto the market.

It was fairly difficult to actually find a copy to hire out, if only because many stores were nervous about displaying the tape, and instead had 'under the counter' copies, but they were most certainly out there - although not one single copy had originated from Astra themselves. Instead, a well known video piracy gang was responsible for supplying the British market with their own illicit copies of **Snuff**. These were easy to spot since there was no mention of Astra on the packaging, and the film's title is not even shown on the cover's spine. The front cover artwork is poorly reproduced, which further confirms its illegitimate nature. There was also an edition bearing Astra's name, as shown in this book. These video covers had originally been intended for Astra, but following Astra's refusal to distribute the movie, Behr believes that Charles Band, the rights owner, probably shipped them to Belgium, and that further illicit copies entered the UK from there.

Fast forward to May 2003, and Blue Underground submitted **Snuff** to the BBFC for a video certificate. Rather surprisingly it was passed uncut, exactly 21 years after its high-profile, but illegitimate, British video debut. However, at the time of writing a UK DVD has strangely still not emerged.

SPASMO
Video Label: **Diplomat**
Catalogue Number **DIP02**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **November 1982**
Running Time: **89m 32s**

Director: **Umberto Lenzi**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Spasm**

This Italian thriller - or *giallo* - starred Seventies British scream-queen Suzy Kendall. Director Lenzi would later turn his back on these psycho-thrillers to spend a couple of years concentrating on churning out a number of exploitative cannibal and zombie genre movies (including **Cannibal Ferox**, **Eaten Alive** and **Nightmare City**, all of which are included in this book).

Spasmo was issued in 1982 by Diplomat Video, who were based in North London's Brunswick Industrial Park. Their distribution was taken care of by Video Form. **Spasmo** hasn't been re-issued in the UK but a DVD is available in America.

SS EXPERIMENT CAMP
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number **GO118**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **January 1982**
Running Time: **89m 54s**

Director: **Sergio Garrone**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka: **Lager SS adis kästrat kommandantur**, **SS Experiment Love Camp**, **Horreur Nazie**

Go Video were responsible for what is regarded as the most infamous of the Nazi-exploitation movies to be issued on British video.

Like many of Go Video's other releases, **SS Experiment Love Camp** (its original moniker before they re-titled it) was acquired as part of a job-lot of European trash movies. It was advertised in the UK trade press using the video's unforgettable cover artwork. After complaints, later ads were altered to cover up the topless woman's breasts. A video rental shop in Cambridge called Focus Video went a bit too far and devoted their entire shop window to some clothes-store dummies which had been decked-out in full Nazi regalia, with posters for the movie adorning the remaining window area.

Go's manager Des Dolan was quick to exploit the enormous amount of publicity his release was attracting, and he was happy to boast in a February 1982 interview that sales were reaching "frenzied proportions". Bizarrely, he tried to defend the film's artistic integrity, even going so far as to make this extraordinary statement: "Steer clear of similarly titled Polish shocker **SS Experiments**, a piece of low-budget cinematic trash". No one working on this book has a clue what he thought he was talking about when he made that statement, but any claims that this film could take the high moral ground over anything at all were quickly debunked by the British courts, when **SS Experiment Camp** was found guilty under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act, and was banned. It has never been seen here since, and it's very unlikely that it ever will.

STEEL CLAW

Video Label: **Cyclo**
Catalogue Number: **ATA114**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1983**
Running Time: **92m 32s**

Director: **George Montgomery**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1961**

This one title sums up the exact state of the British video industry at this particular time. It seemed that you could package just about any movie with cover art that would stand out from the rest of the crowd and people would rent it.

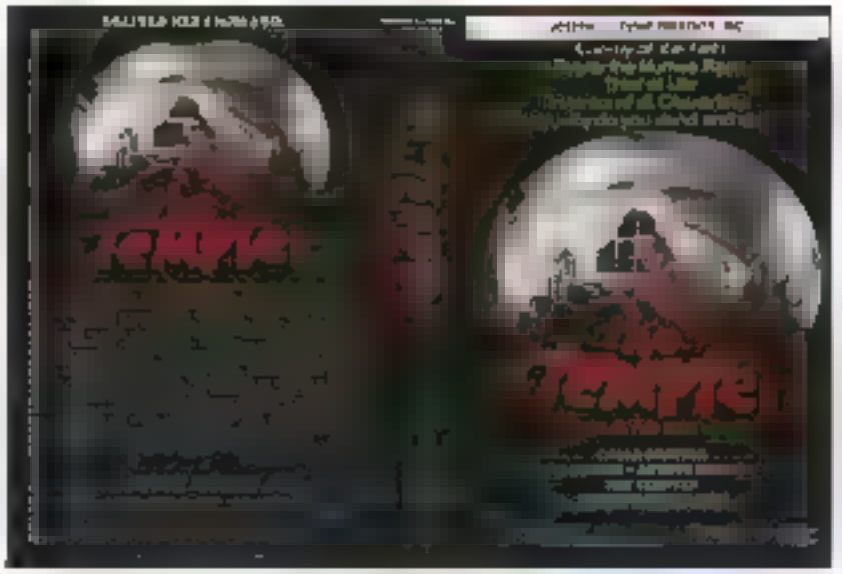
Well Cyclo certainly put that theory to the test when they issued this early 1960s war drama with cover art that really was pushing the limits of acceptability for public display. Their marketing campaign backfired when punters who'd been duped into hiring it complained and asked for their money back, and Cyclo were forced to re-issue **Steel Claw** with more representative cover art.

Cyclo-branded tapes were issued by the ATA video company, who were based in Surrey. Almost every film they released was of American origin, prime examples being John (**Grave of the Undead**) Hayes's **Jailbait Babysitter**, John Stanley's **Nightmare In Blood**, and Harry Essex's **The Cramators**.

STRANGLER OF VIENNA

Video Label: **Vampix (Videomedia)**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1023**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1983**
Running Time: **78m 24s**

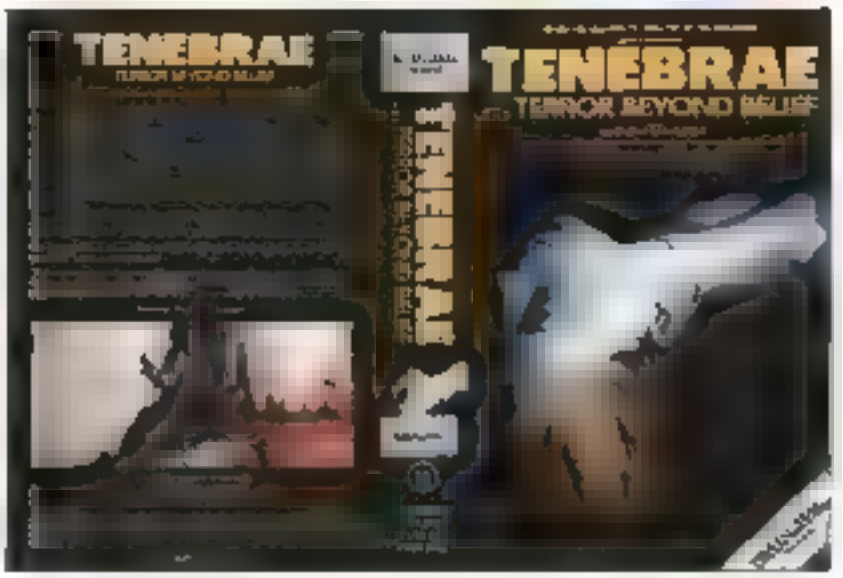
Director: **Guido Zurli (as John Zurli)**
Country of Production: **Italy, West Germany**
Year of Production: **1971**
aka: **Lo strangolatore di Vienna**, **Der Wuerger Kommt auf Leisen Socken**, **Meat Is Meat**, **The Mad Butcher**



This twisted horror comedy was issued in May 1983 on Videomedia's highly successful Vampix horror label. An alternate release also briefly showed up in rental stores courtesy of the Valiant label (part of Video Releasing Organization), and this time under its American release title of **The Mad Butcher**.

These two tapes feature very different versions of the film. It was re-edited and re-dubbed for US release by infamous low-budget movie mogul Harry Novak. **The Mad Butcher** features many more insert shots of knives being sharpened, meat being cut and sausages being made than are seen in **Strangler of Vienna**, which explains Novak's first choice of title, '**Meat Is Meat**'! The most noteworthy difference is the scene in which Otto, the villain, falls to his death. On the Vampix tape he falls into a vat of acid and burns to death, but if you watch the Valiant release you will see him falling into a butcher's machine and being turned into sausages!

The film is now available on DVD in the US, issued by Something Weird with the on-screen title **Meat Is Meat**. It is also available in the UK as a single disc from Village Entertainment, and from Siren on a double-bill with **Frankenstein's Castle of Freaks**. They all feature Harry Novak's US print.



THE TEMPTER
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0392**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **July 1982**
Running Time: **90m 56s**

Director: **Alberto De Martino**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **L'Anticristo**; **The Antichrist**

This film was awarded the short-lived BBFC theatrical AA certificate - only for people aged fourteen years or above - on 15 Nov 1974, running 105 minutes 36 seconds, so even if the cover had shown the correct running time (it incorrectly says the film runs for 96 minutes), then it was immediately apparent that this tape contained a heavily cut version. American distributor Joseph E. Levine's name is emblazoned across the top of the front cover, which suggests that the tape is an American pick-up (the film was rated 'R' in the States after Levine made drastic edits to the film, with about half of the deleted footage having been taken from the beginning of the film, primarily segments featuring the Christ-like figure and accompanying crowd scenes).

Director Alberto De Martino retired from filmmaking in 1985, after a 25-year career during which he made whatever sort of film the market demanded at the time - from sword and sandal 'peplums', via spaghetti westerns, cop thrillers and *giallo* thrillers, to the likes of this one (filmed as **L'Anticristo**) and **Holocaust 2000**, both of which were straightforward cash-ins, inspired by **The Exorcist** and **The Omen** respectively.

A fully uncut DVD of the film has now been released in America under the title **The Antichrist**.

TENEBRAE
Video Label: **Videomedia**
Catalogue Number: **HVM1032**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **29 June 1983**
Running Time: **96m 48s**

Director: **Dario Argento**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1982**
aka: **Tenebre**; **Unsane**; **Shadow**

Tenebrae was granted an '18' certificate with one BBFC approved cut of just 4 seconds, and played selected UK cinemas during May 1983. Videomedia issued the film onto video during the month after its British theatrical premiere, unfortunately at exactly the time that the Video Nasty scare was gaining momentum. **Tenebrae** was extremely violent and was easily available on video. Due to the fact that there was no formal classification system for video, and also because the 'likely audience might well include young children, these factors had to be taken into account when the video was prosecuted. It was duly added to the DPP's banned list and was eventually removed from video stores nationwide.

When Nouveaux Pictures submitted **Tenebrae** for video classification in 1999, the movie was still reeling from the aftershock of having been found guilty as charged under Section Two of the Obscene Publications Act. The BBFC therefore had to pass it in a version which was not the same as that which had previously fallen foul of the law, so an extra 1 second cut was made, bringing the total amount of excised footage to 5 seconds in all.

Due to changes in the BBFC's policies when **Tenebrae** was re-submitted by Anchor Bay in 2003, all previous cuts were finally waived, but the print used was short of the film's full running time by some 20 seconds due to print damage. There is however a fully-intact version on Dutch DVD, under the title **Shadows**.

TERROR EYES
Video Label: **Guild**
Catalogue Number: **GH201**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **February 1983**
Running Time: **84m 56s**

Director: **Kenneth Hughes**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Night School**

The uncut version of **Terror Eyes** appeared on the Guild Video label in February 1983, after a cut print had been given a brief cinema release by Rank Films in 1981. It was a long-term member of the DPP's nasties list, but was dropped six months before the final list of 39 titles was published.

When Guild submitted the film to the BBFC for video classification in May 1987, it was cut by 1 minute 16 seconds (made up of 9 cuts in all, mostly shots of stabbings and girls being threatened with knives). The tape was re-issued in the same packaging as the original version.

The film's British-born director is most well-known for his smash-hit children's musical **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**, which he directed in 1968. **Terror Eyes** was Hughes's last ever job in a feature film directing career that stretched right back to 1952's **Wide Boy**.

Top-billed actor Leonard Mann's next film was Roberto Faenza's little-seen **Copkiller** (aka **Order of Death**), a fascinating sleaper featuring Harvey Keitel as an archetypal bad cop, pitting his wits against a cool-as-ice psychopath played by former Sex Pistols front-man John Lydon.

THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 022**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **15 December 1981**
Running Time: **79m 29s**

Director: **Tobe Hooper**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1974**

Tobe Hooper's monumentally important horror classic was rejected outright when Herndale Films submitted it for BBFC classification back in March 1975. Undeterred, Herndale then applied for a local Greater London Council (GLC) certificate - meaning that it could only be shown in London cinemas - and it was duly granted an 'X' rating without cuts, after which it enjoyed a successful cinema run in the Capital.

When it first appeared on video in the UK, the packaging used the original London poster art, with the 'X (London)' rating displayed. For the very first edition, which must be one of the earliest ever video releases in the UK, it

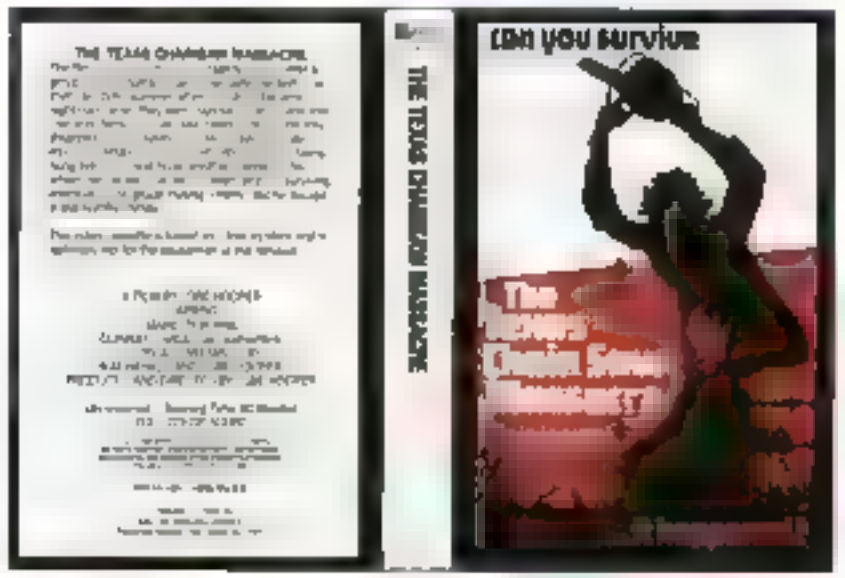
looks like Iver used 8mm size boxes (the company was well established in Britain as a distributor of 8mm films before the video age), having adapted the inside of the case to hold a video cassette. There were least three other Iver releases in this format (**Erotic Eva, The Human Factor** and **Legacy of Satan**).

After being issued in a small card slip case, **The Texas Chain Saw Massacre** became a huge hit for Iver who went on to re-issue it over the coming years in big boxes with different artwork, including a striking painted alternative cover that was issued in June 1982

To Iver's great credit, the company allegedly ended up paying around $73,000 in profits to the cast and crew of the movie during the period they had the film under license, which stretched back to 1977

In 1984 the Video Recordings Act became law, and because the film had never been approved by the BBFC for video it was swiftly removed from rental stores. It would be a very long time before this masterpiece could be seen again in Britain.

Over the coming years, the BBFC would often receive phone calls from video companies expressing an interest in releasing it. They were always informed by the then director James Ferman that the time just wasn't right. Eventually Ferman left the board and things began to change at a rapid pace. In March 1999, 24 years after its original rejection, Blue Dolphin submitted the film and were granted an uncut '18' certificate for theatrical release. This prompted them to apply for a video certificate a few months later which was also duly granted without cuts.



THE TOOLBOX MURDERS

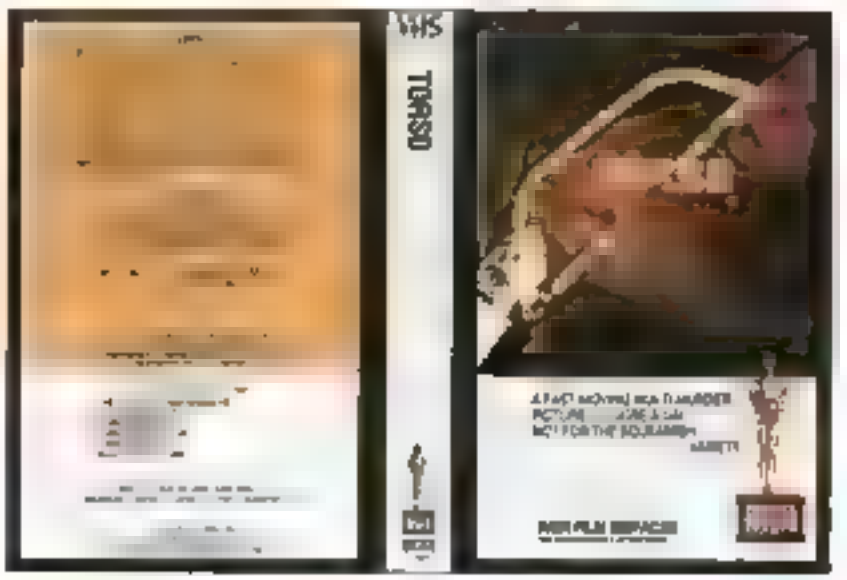
Video Label: **Hokushin**
Catalogue Number: **VM61**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **83m 56s**

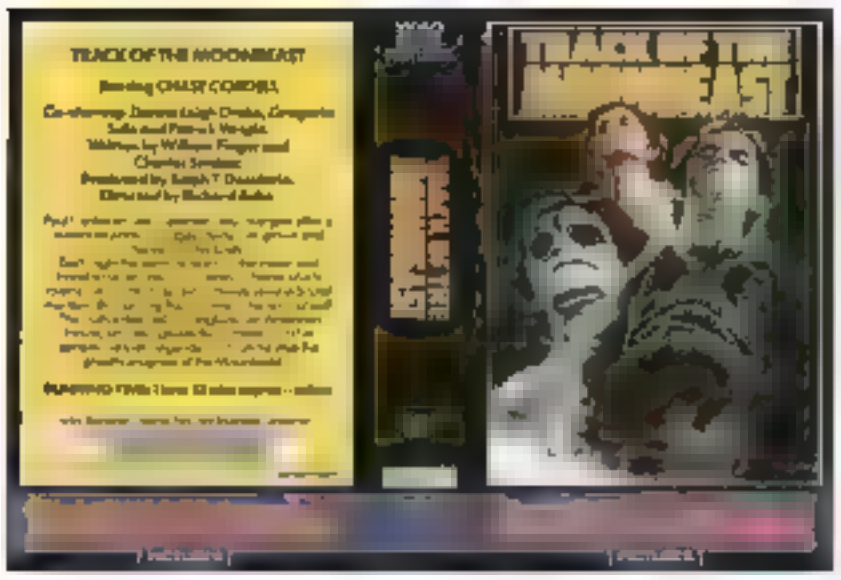
Director: **Dennis Donnelly**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1977**

Miracle Films released **The Toolbox Murders** to British cinemas at the end of 1979, after having been forced to submit to some drastic BBFC cuts before the film was granted an 'X' rating. It was the same 'X' rated version that was issued on video by Streatham-based Hokushin Audio Visual during November 1981

In common with several other titles which had already been cut and approved by the BBFC for cinema release, **The Toolbox Murders** was pulled up by the DPP due to its 'likely audience', but perhaps even more so because of its title. The film spent considerable time on their list of titles considered suitable for prosecution, having been added during November 1983. It was dropped during May 1985 when it was finally admitted that there was nothing in the version offered to the British public that could actually cause any harm to society

VIPCO submitted a pre-cut version for video classification in 2000, but nearly two minutes of cuts were still required. An in-name-only remake was directed by **Texas Chain Saw Massacre** creator Tobe Hooper in 2003. It's a superior film in every way, but the original still retains a degree of enigmatic charm, the effectively sleazy packaging ensuring that Hokushin's tape remains collectable today, even with a fully uncut print easily available on American DVD





TORSO
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 158**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **5 November 1981**
Running Time: **85m 13s**

Director: **Sergio Martino**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1972**
aka. **I corpi presentano tracce di violenza carnale**, **Carnal Violence**

This stylish Italian thriller (or *giallo*) was classified 'X' with cuts for its brief theatrical run back in 1975. When Iver Film Services eventually issued it on video they had acquired the slightly shorter American edit, which had been released there theatrically by Joseph Brenner. This cut of the film was released three times in Britain during the pre-VRA era, once on the Condor label, and twice by Iver: first in the distinctively-branded 'white spine' packaging shown here; and then during April 1982 in a completely new design, as shown in the alternative covers section at the back of this book.

This same version appeared briefly on video from VIPCO as a BBFC-approved '18' release, having been subjected to cuts totalling 50 seconds.

A restored version is available on NTSC DVD from America, and an excellent PAL DVD has also been issued in Germany.

TRACK OF THE MOONBEAST
Video Label: **Video Form**
Catalogue Number: **MGT07**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **14 May 1982**
Running Time: **77m 32s**

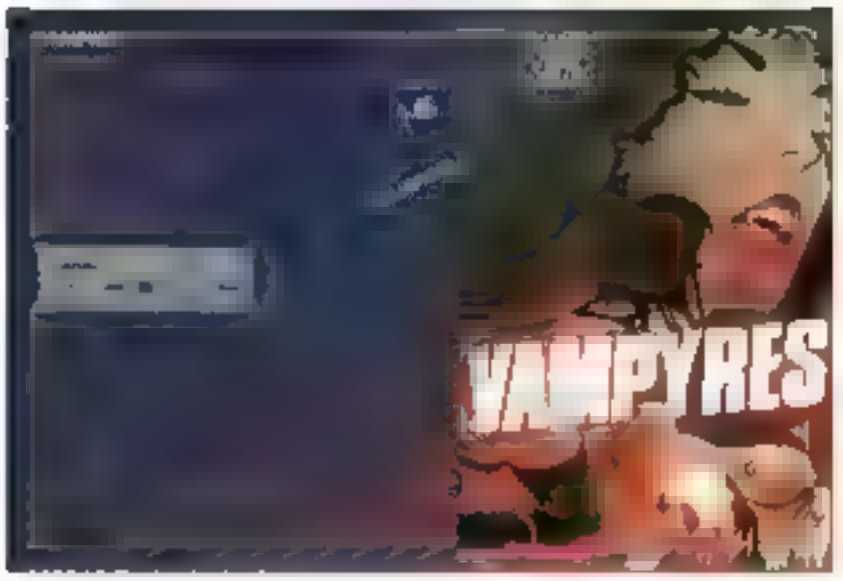
Director: **Richard Ashe**
Country of Production: **USA**
Year of Production: **1972**

Produced by none other than Ralph Desiderio, the man who brought us the first two films in the sleazy 'Ginger' series, this is considered by those that have seen it to be among the worst horror movies ever made. Is amazing then that the effects were created by two of the finest talents in the industry: Rick Baker (**An American Werewolf in London**) and Joe Blasco (**Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS**), who also actually played the Moonbeast!

Track of the Moonbeast was its director's only feature film. It was issued on UK video during May 1982 by Video Form, and was one of their earliest releases. It's currently unavailable on video.

TRAPPED
Video Label: **Video Film Organisation**
Catalogue Number: **VN0017**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1982**
Running Time: **88m 55s**

Director: **William Fruet**
Country of Production: **Canada**
Year of Production: **1981**
aka. **Baker County, U.S.A.**, **Killer Instinct**



The first edition of **Trapped** surfaced on UK video some time during September 1982 with a self-imposed 'R Warning X rated' statement on the cover. Of course, the 'R' rating was what the film had been given by the MPAA (the American censor) for its US release, but the film had not at the time been classified by the BBFC, so the claim of an 'X' rating was in effect invalid.

Video Film Organisation tapes were released by Isle of Man-based Video Network under the directorship of John and Mick Glover, who also owned the Video Releasing Organization brand. They placed a trade press ad announcing a September 1982 release for the film, pairing it up with **Absurd**. It is not clear why this companion release did not go ahead, but in the end it would appear to have been a fortuitous turn of events, because when Medusa issued Massacesi's gory romp in 1983, it was of course promptly banned. **Trapped** was however issued on time and did not attract any unwanted attention.

A re-issue appeared in August 1983 after the film had been passed uncut with an '18' rating from the BBFC for cinema release in January of that year. Despite the fact that there was in legal terms no classification available for video releases at that time, some companies played safe and appended theatrical ratings onto their video releases, assuming that what was valid for cinemas would automatically apply to video (as can be seen on the re-release sleeve for this title, shown in the alterative designs section at the back of this book). However this assumption would soon prove to be incorrect, as different - more stringent - standards were later applied to video certification in comparison to cinema ratings. **Trapped** is currently unavailable on video or DVD.

[illegible]
Video Label: **DVS**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1983**
Running Time: **95m 58s**

Director: **Freddie Francis**
Country of Production: **West Germany**
Year of Production: **1970**
aka: **Geblasen wird nur Nachts**

Acclaimed cinematographer turned director Freddie Francis was hired by Germany's Aquila Films to direct this one-off saucy horror romp, which sadly bypassed UK cinema screens completely.

The film finally appeared in British rental stores during May 1983 after DVS had managed to acquire it as part of a package of other bizarre titles. DVS were something of a cheapskate label, in that they issued only average movies at best. Most were practically unknown, with only a few being of any real interest to even the keenest of collectors.

This outrageously-packaged release was the last time the film was made available in Britain, although a DVD has since been issued in the USA.

[illegible]
Video Label: **Rank**
Catalogue Number: **2006B**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **September 1981**
Running Time: **81m 02s**

Director: **José Ramón Larraz (as Joseph Larraz)**
Country of Production: **Great Britain**
Year of Production: **1974**
aka: **Vampyres - Daughters of Dracula**

This stylish and sexy vampire movie was distributed to cinemas by Rank Films in 1975. Some of its more graphic moments of violence had been removed for an 'X' rating, and it was this version which came to be seen when Rank issued it on video in September 1981.

Vampyres was re-issued by Rank in 1989 after they formally submitted it for home video classification. Again, BBFC cuts were imposed, and in addition to the damage present in the pre-cut version that was submitted, further cuts of 26 seconds were required.

In 2003 the uncut version was finally classified for video release in the UK.

VIOLATION OF THE BITCH
Video Label: **Hokushin**
Catalogue Number: **VM59**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **67m 17s**

Director: **José Ramón Larraz**
Country of Production: **Spain**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **La visita del vicio, Sodomia, The Coming of Sin**

This erotically-charged European import was cut for a British 'X' rating and played the sex cinemas of London's Soho during the late Seventies. Because of its rather exploitative title and contentious tag line ("She asked for it..."), the film understandably caused quite a stir.

When Joe Gall's Hokushin Audio Visual label issued it on video in 1981, they re-used the movie's original theatrical poster art and tagline, and it duly went on to reach a much wider audience than it had found during the time of its original sex cinema screenings. Despite the best efforts of its distributors to give it the worst possible image, in actual fact this film is a very stylish and atmospheric effort from director Larraz (who had previously made the British 1974 horror movie hit **Vampyres**). It is nowhere near as nastily exploitative as the video's strident - and, let's face it, wilfully offensive - cover design suggested.

A re-release of the same truncated 'X' rated version was briefly made available in 1986 (packaged in a laughable leather-fetish soft porn cover), but it very soon vanished. Then in 1987 the film reappeared on video as **Secrets of the Bitch** in a slightly more complete version. The best English language version released to date was put out onto the by-then-declining VHS sell-through market at the beginning of 2000 by Pagan Films as **The Coming of Sin**, although it still required 1 minute 15 seconds of cuts in order for it to be granted an '18' certificate. An alternate version entitled **Sodomia** was released on video in Italy, complete with hardcore footage not seen in any other print.

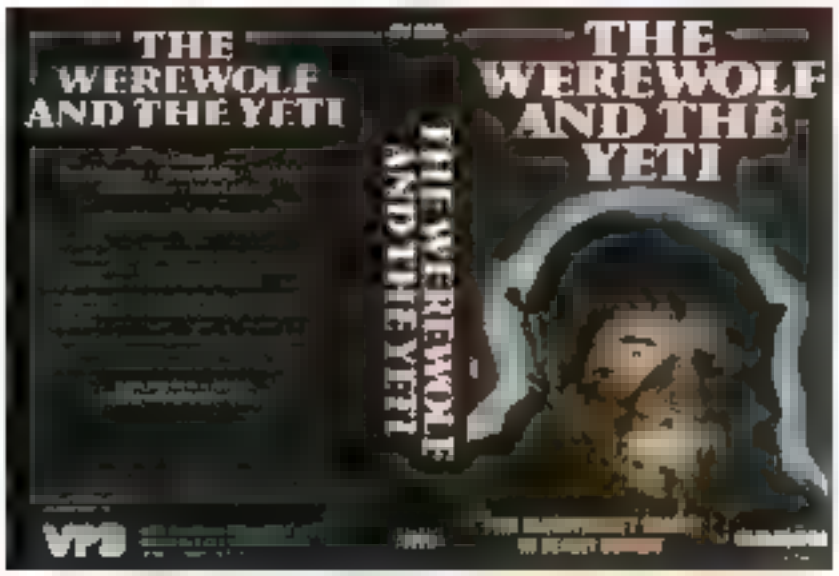
THE WEREWOLF AND THE YETI
Video Label: **Canon**
Catalogue Number: **CV005**
Format: **Small Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **83m 43s**

Director **Miguel I. Bonns (as M.I. Bonns)**
Country of Production **Spain**
Year of Production **1975**
aka: **La maldición de la bestia; Night of the Howling Beast**

This Spanish Yeti movie written by and starring horror legend Paul Naschy (real name 'Jacinto Molina Alvarez') was another Euro horror title acquired for video release by Canon video in 1982

Maybe someone at the offices of the Department of Public Prosecutions had a curious aversion to Yeti-themed movies, because this was another example of that minuscule sub-genre to be deemed obscene. Once it had been added to the DPP banned list in August 1984, it stayed there to the very end, becoming one of the infamous final 39

The movie had received an American cinema release thanks to Sam Sherman's Independent International Pictures Corp., under the title **Night of the Howling Beast**. There is currently no official release on any home video format



WEREWOLF WOMAN
Video Label: **Cockney Rebels Specials**
Catalogue Number **FV2**
Format **Big Box**
Release Date **3 June 1983**
Running Time: **87m 50s**

Director **Rino Di Silvestro**
Country of Production. **Italy**
Year of Production: **1976**
aka **La lupa mannara**; **Legend of the Wolfwoman**, **Naked Werewolf Woman**

This Italian **Exorcist**-inspired movie was acquired by adult film distributor Amanda Films who released it to the sex cinema circuit back in 1980 with an 'X' certificate after it had been subjected to BBFC cuts

It appeared on numerous video labels over the coming years, but the first was the Cinehollywood release of November 1981. Due to the fact that Cinehollywood tapes were actually Italian imports, this print featured all of the cut scenes that were missing from the later 'X' rated Intercity release. However, the Intercity release is actually almost 5 minutes longer than the uncensored Cinehollywood version, which suffers from a great deal of print damage

This uncensored but damaged print then re-surfaced on Dennis Jones's Cockney Rebels Specials label, whose tapes were distributed by Universal Video in Leytonstone East London. This release was advertised in the trade press with the aid of a competition offering a new car as the top prize

After the imposition of the Video Recordings Act, the film was released yet again on David Sullivan's Tobyward label, as **Naked Werewolf Woman**. This release was sold in Sullivan's chain of Private sex shops, as well as via mail order through the small ads sections in the back of the various adult mags he was responsible for publishing. The video came packaged in a very misleading sleeve, which made it look like a generic sex film. Duped punters must have been livid when they found themselves watching a 'real' movie - and a dubbed foreign horror movie at that!

The Werewolf Woman herself was played by Annik Borel who had previously appeared in several obscure American productions, including Ted V. Mikels's **Blood Orgy of the She-Devils**.

WEREWOLVES ON WHEELS
Video Label: **Video Unlimited**
Catalogue Number **VUV022**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **May 1981**
Running Time: **81m 51s**

Director **Michel Levesque**
Country of Production **USA**
Year of Production: **1971**

This crazy biker-werewolf movie (!) stars singer Barry McGuire whose only other film credit was the provocative Sixties counter-culture sleeper **The President's Analyst**, though he remains best known for his Sixties anti-war anthem Eve of Destruction

The film also marked the directorial debut of Michel Levesque, who found a great deal of employment as a production designer and art director In which capacity he contributed to the look of horror oddity **The Incredible Melting Man**, and several Russ Meyer epics including **Supervixens** and **Up!**

Werewolves on Wheels first appeared on the Iver Film Services label in April 1981, and re-appeared a little later from Barry Goddard's Video Unlimited with a much more striking cover design. It remains out of print in Britain and is unavailable on DVD

THE WITCHMAKER
Video Label: **Derann**
Catalogue Number **DV107**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **1979**
Running Time: **94m 50s**

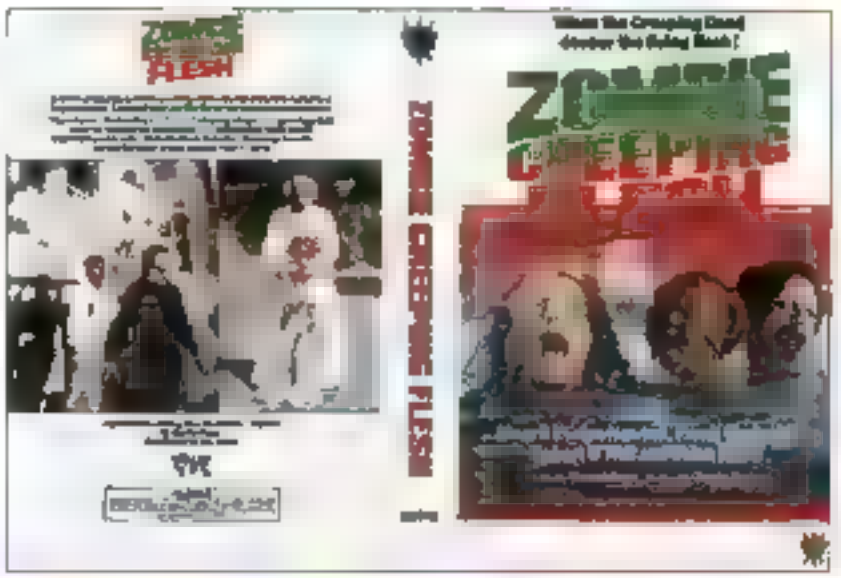
Director **William O. Brown**
Country of Production **USA**
Year of Production: **1969**
aka: **Legend of Witch Hollow; Witch Kill; Witchmaster Naked Witch**

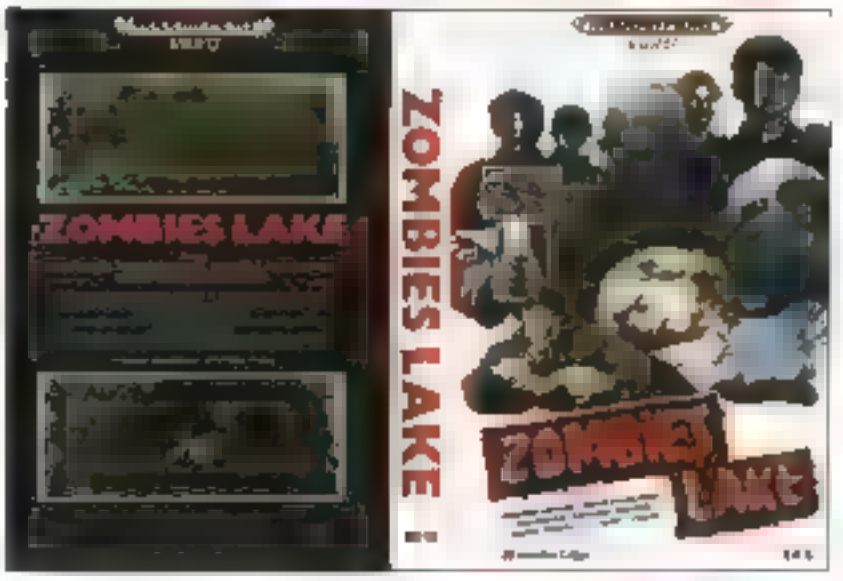
This minor cult classic has several B-movie veterans among its cast and was executive produced by L.Q. Jones, better known himself as a tough-guy actor

The Witchmaker debuted on UK video as early as 1979 and was one of Derann's first releases. There was a bit of a mix-up when it was originally announced in the video trade press, with one magazine listing the film's tagline instead of its actual title A re-release of the film appeared on tape briefly in 1987 but neither version is currently in circulation.

Top-billed actress Thordis Brandt made ten films in her four-year screen career which included a minor role in cult favourite **In Like Flint** (she is billed as 'Amazon #5'). Director William O. Brown had an even shorter career curtailing it immediately after this, his second film (Brown's first was a comedy called **One Way Wahini**). The film's producer Alvy Moore also took a lead role in the film, playing a psychic researcher, investigating the disappearance of young girls and stumbling across Satanic rituals in the process

We included this very early example of video cover art because of its rough-hewn charm. No one would win any prizes for technical accomplishment with a piece of artwork like that, but the design undoubtedly does its primary job, which is to catch the eye from a distance





ZOMBIE CREEPING FLESH
Video Label: **Merlin**
Catalogue Number: **M264D**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1982**
Running Time: **81m 35s**

Director: **Bruno Mattei (as Vincent Dawn)**
Country of Production: **Italy, Spain**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Inferno dei morti viventi**; **Virus**; **Apocalypsis Canibal**; **Hell of the Living Dead**, **Night of the Zombies**

Miracle Films had originally been granted an 'X' rating for a version of **Zombie Creeping Flesh** that ran for around 89 minutes, even though it had been slightly pre-cut. This version never saw the light of day, as Michael Myers had decided the film was just too long and slowly-paced. After losing an additional 14 minutes and disposing of the vast majority of its interminable SWAT team footage, the film went out to cinemas in this new edit, which technically speaking was not a BBFC-approved version.

Around a month later Myers's Merlin Video label issued the same version onto the rental market, where it did fairly well, presumably inspiring the Peter and the Test Tube Babies song *Zombie Creeping Flesh*, which ascended to the dizzy heights of number 99 in the music charts! After a successful prosecution in Brighton in 1984, the video was sadly withdrawn from circulation.

Mo Claridge's Apex label was the first to attempt a re-release, several years later in 1987, when they got as far as printing up sleeves complete with BBFC '18' symbols, but the release was strangely withdrawn at the last minute.

It was not until 1993 that a formal re-submission for BBFC classification was made by Video Gems, but this was at the height of the furore that erupted in the wake of the Jamie Bulger murder case, and BBFC director James Ferman advised them that the timing was not right, and refused to view it.

Mike Lee's VIPCO eventually submitted the full uncut version in 2002, and at last it was passed uncut with an '18' certificate.

ZOMBIE FLESH EATERS
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP024**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **November 1981**
Running Time: **87m 01s**

Director: **Lucio Fulci**
Country of Production: **Italy**
Year of Production: **1979**
aka: **Zombi 2**; **Zombie**

The Italians were legendary for making their own versions of American box office hits, so it came as no surprise to see this extremely gory 'homage' to Romero's **Dawn of the Dead** suddenly doing the rounds of the local flea pit cinemas during the first few months of 1980. Miracle Films had submitted the full uncut version, and the BBFC requested cuts of nearly two minutes before they would consider granting it an 'X' certificate. Regardless, it became quite a talked about-movie, which was all the more reason for VIPCO's Mike Lee to issue it later that year in this 'X'-rated edition.

Following requests from the movie's many fans, Lee was convinced that the uncut version would be a better contender for the video charts. A year later V.P.C.O. issued the now legendary 'Strong Uncut Version', which was a smash hit, but due to its graphic scenes of violence it was yet another title destined to end up on the DPP's hit list.

It would not be seen again on UK video until 1992, when the original 'X'-rated cinema version was re-classified for video and was granted an '18' rating. Subsequent re-submission attempts for the complete version have failed, although if submitted today it would possibly be granted an uncut '18' certificate for the first time due to much more relaxed BBFC guidelines. Uncut DVDs are available from the US and Europe.

ZOMBIES LAKE
Video Label: **Modern Films**
Catalogue Number: **MD09**
Format: **Big Box**
Release Date: **October 1981**
Running Time: **76m 47s**

Director: **Julián de Laserna & Jean Rollin (as J.A. Laser)**
Country of Production: **Spain, France**
Year of Production: **1980**
aka: **Zombie Lake**, **El lago de los muertos vivientes**, **Le lac des morts vivants**, **Lake of the Living Dead**

This was another title Modern Films had acquired from the Eurociné library, and was as mind-boggling as the other films they had selected for video release. To add insult to injury, the version of this incompetent Nazi zombie movie presented on this tape omits the copious nudity that featured in the longest available prints, arguably taking away the last vestiges of potential interest for unrepentant exploitation fans.

Jess Franco was supposed to shoot **Zombies Lake** but refused. The job was given to another Spanish director Julián de Lasarna, and French director Jean Rollin (hiding behind the J.A. Laser pseudonym), who was drafted in to try and salvage this mess of a movie. Rollin also appears on screen as one of the inspectors.

Zombies Lake never made it to British cinemas although it did make it to DVD where it can currently be found in its original version, with all of the nude scenes intact. For what it's worth ...

ABDUCTED
(as Schoolgirls in Chains)
Video Label: **Portland Films**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

ANDY WARHOL'S FRANKENSTEIN
Video Label: **Video Gems**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

ANTHROPOPHAGOUS THE BEAST
Video Label: **Video Shack**
Catalogue Number: **VS006**
Format: **Big Box**

BLOOD BATH
(as Bay of Blood)
Video Label: **Medusa**
Catalogue Number: **MC022**
Format: **Big Box**

SHE-DEVILS
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **C035C**
Format: **Plastic Cassette Box**

BLOOD RITES
Video Label: **Scorpio**
Catalogue Number: **SVP101**
Format:
Reverse of Double-Sided Sleeve

CANNIBAL FEROX
Video Label: **Replay**
Catalogue Number: **R1016**
Format: **Big Box**

THE CANNIBAL MAN
Catalogue Number: **A-A0348**
Format: **Big Box**

CANNIBALS
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **V1000**
Format: **Big Box**

CANNIBALS
Video Label: **Serpent**
Catalogue Number: **002**
Format: **Small Box**

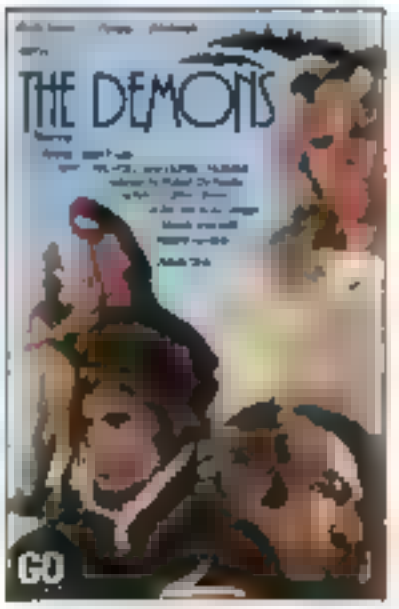
CITY OF THE LIVING DEAD
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **A-A0477**
Format: **Big Box**

THE CORPSE GRINDERS
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **C037C**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

DEATH TRAP
Video Label: **VCL**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

DELIRIUM
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1022**
Format: **Big Box**

DEMON
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1038**
Format: **Big Box**

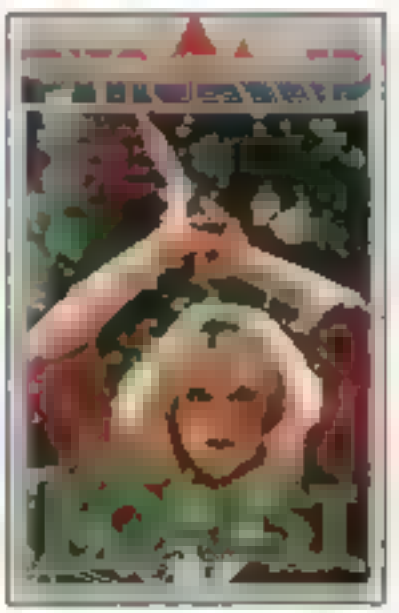


THE DEMONS
Video Label: **Go**
Catalogue Number: **GO118**
Format: **Big Box**

THE DEVIL HUNTER
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **V1590**
Format: **Big Box**

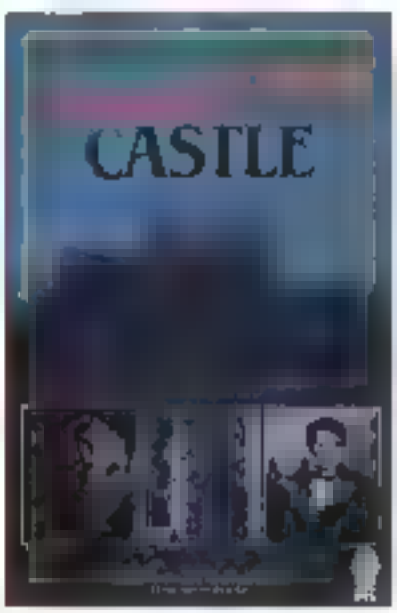
[redacted]
(as The Extra Terrestrial Nastie)
Video Label: **Dertton**
Catalogue Number: **GF570**
Format: **Big Box**

EQUINOX
Video Label: **KM**
Catalogue Number: **503**
Format: **Big Box**



THE FOREST
Video Label: **Pyramid**
Catalogue Number: **5203**
Format: **Big Box**

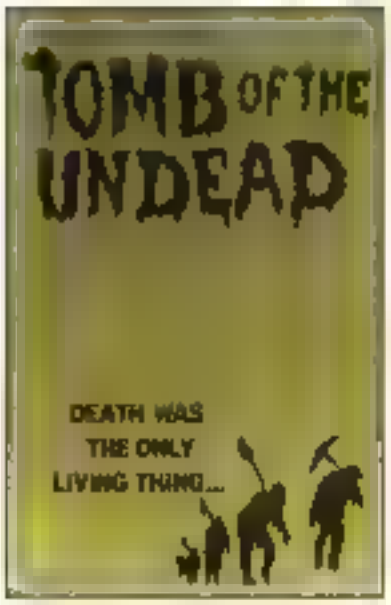
FRANKENSTEIN'S CASTLE (OF FREAKS)
Video Label: **DVS**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**



FRANKENSTEIN'S CASTLE (OF FREAKS)
Video Label: **DVS**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

FRANKENSTEIN'S CASTLE OF FREAKS
Video Label: **Valiant**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

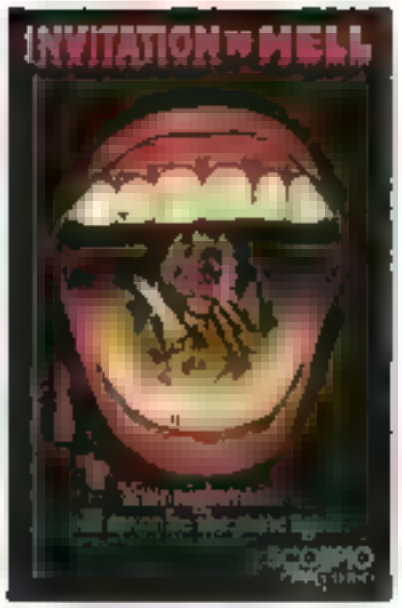
GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY
Video Label: **Video Shack**
Catalogue Number: **VS001**
Format: **Big Box**



GRAVE OF THE UNDEAD
(as Tomb of the Undead)
Video Label: **Trytel**
Catalogue Number: **820**
Format: **Big Box**

I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE
Video Label: **Wizard**
Catalogue Number: **WV016**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

INVASION OF THE BLOOD FARMERS
Video Label: **Videon**
Catalogue Number: **N8**
Format: **Big Box**



INVITATION TO HELL
Video Label: **Scorpio**
Catalogue Number: **SVP102/3**
Format:
Reverse of Double-Sided Sleeve

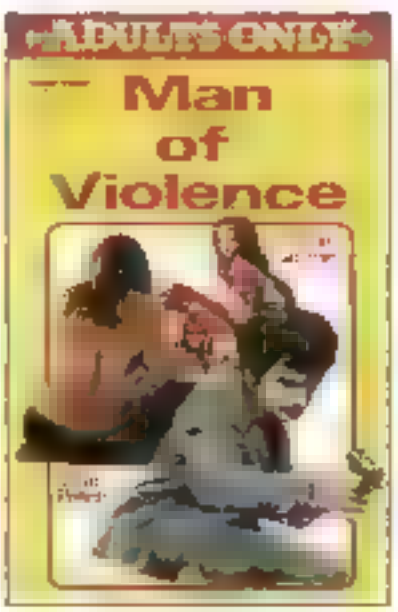
LATE NIGHT TRAINS
(as Night Train Murder)
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **VB200**
Format: **Big Box**

[redacted]
(as The Spectre of Edgar Allan Poe)
Video Label: **Surrey Video Cycle**
Catalogue Number: **SVC706**
Format: **Big Box**

THE LIVING DEAD
(as Don't Open the Window)
Video Label: **LVC**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

THE LIVING DEAD
(as Don't Open the Window)
Video Label: **LVC**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

LOVE CAMP 7
Video Label: **Abbey**
Catalogue Number: **AV2**
Format: **Small Box**



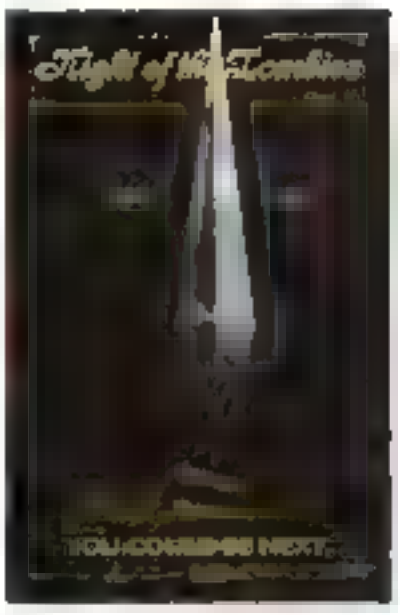
MAN OF VIOLENCE
Video Label: **Home Video Supplies**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

MARDI GRAS MASSACRE
Video Label: **Market**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT AFTER NIGHT
Video Label: **Starline**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT AFTER NIGHT
Video Label: **Video Playback**
Catalogue Number: **VPB004**
Format: **Big Box**

NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIES
Video Label: **Shuttle**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**



[redacted]
Video Label: **Shuttle**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

NIGHTMARE CITY
(with **Alien Terror**)
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1199**
Format: **Big Box**

NIGHTMARE MAKER
Video Label:
Atlantis Video Productions
Catalogue Number: **AVP702**
Format: **Big Box**

[redacted]
Video Label: **Broadway Films**
Catalogue Number: **PA014**
Format: **Big Box**

POSSESSION
Video Label: **Video Tape Center**
Catalogue Number: **VTC1031**
Format: **Big Box**

RANA
(as **The Creature from Shadow Lake**)
Video Label: **Jaguar**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

SATAN'S SLAVE
Video Label: **Intervision**
Catalogue Number: **H05**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

SNUFF
Video Label: **None**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

STRANGLER OF VIENNA
(as **The Mad Butcher**)
Video Label: **Valiant**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Big Box**

THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW [redacted]
Video Label: **Inter Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **None**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE
Video Label: **Wizard**
Catalogue Number: **WV034**
Format: **Card Slip Case (Small)**

THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 022**
Format: **Big Box**

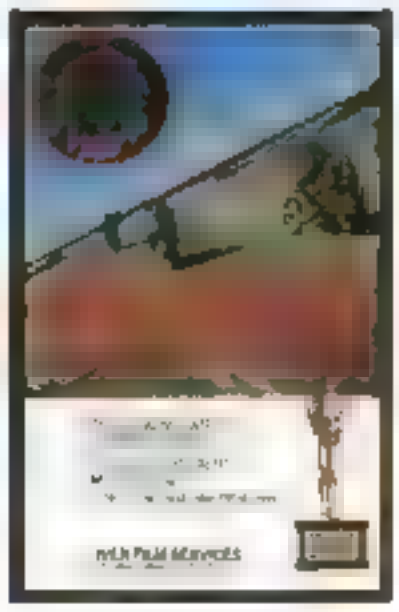
TORSO
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 158**
Format: **Big Box**

TORSO
Video Label: **Condor**
Catalogue Number: **1205**
Format: **Big Box**

TRAPPED
Video Label: **Video Film Organisation**
Catalogue Number: **VN0017**
Format: **Small Box**

WEREWOLF WOMAN
Video Label: **Cinehollywood**
Catalogue Number: **V1770**
Format: **Big Box**

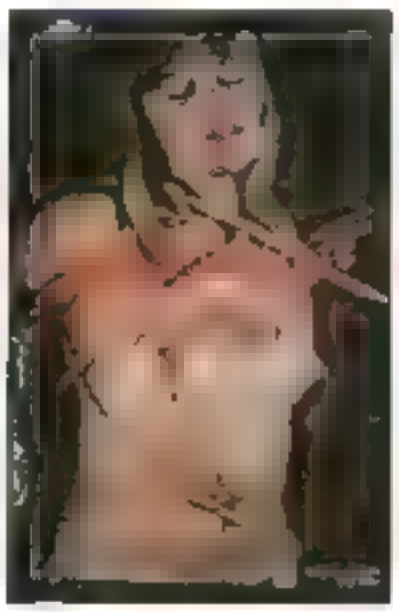
WEREWOLF WOMAN
Video Label: **Intercity**
Catalogue Number: **ICV113**
Format: **Big Box**



WEREWOLVES ON WHEELS
Video Label: **Iver Film Services**
Catalogue Number: **FF30 133**
Format: **Big Box**

ZOMBIE FLESH-EATERS
(cut 'X' version)
Video Label: **VIPCO**
Catalogue Number: **VIP001**
Format: **Big Box**

The Jekyll and Hyde Portfolio illustrated on the right is a [redacted] oddity in the history of British pre-VRA video. This obviously S&M-tinged horror film was part of a package of nine Home Video Productions titles to be distributed by intervision. Its companions included **Don't Go Near the Park** and **Frozen Scream**, both featured in this book, and both also for some time honoured members of the 'video nasties' hit-list. With a cover like this one, there is no doubt that **The Jekyll and Hyde Portfolio** would have been permanently nailed onto the list if it were not for the bizarre fact that the video was never actually released in Britain, apparently only appearing in Australian video stores! It is believed that the owner of intervision moved to Australia, so it is possible that he took the tapes with him. But maybe the company simply had a panicky moment of common sense and withdrew it from sale in Britain? . In truth we may never know. The film itself is an American production from 1972, which is also known as **Jekyll and Hyde Unleashed**. The only name of note involved in its production is early '70s porn starlet Rene Bond.



JEKYLL AND HYDE PORTFOLIO
Video Label
Home Video Productions
Catalogue Number: **A-AE0434**
Format: **Big Box**

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All other film titles are shown in *italics*.
Video companies are shown in plain text.

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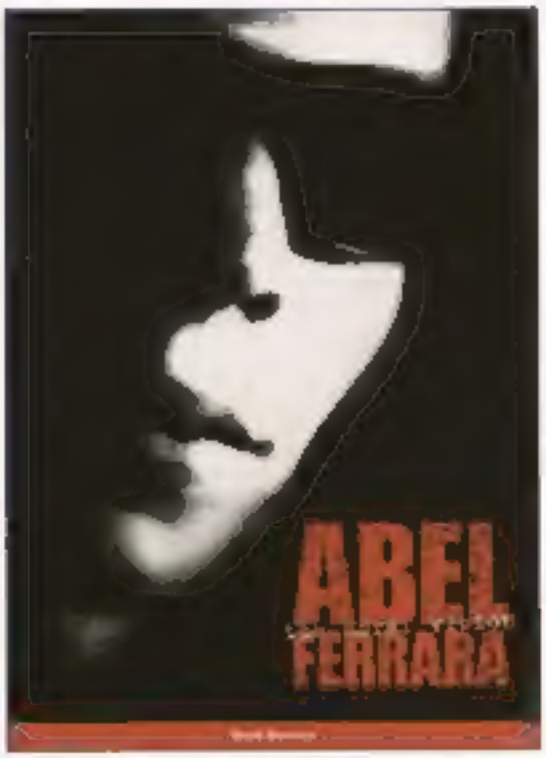

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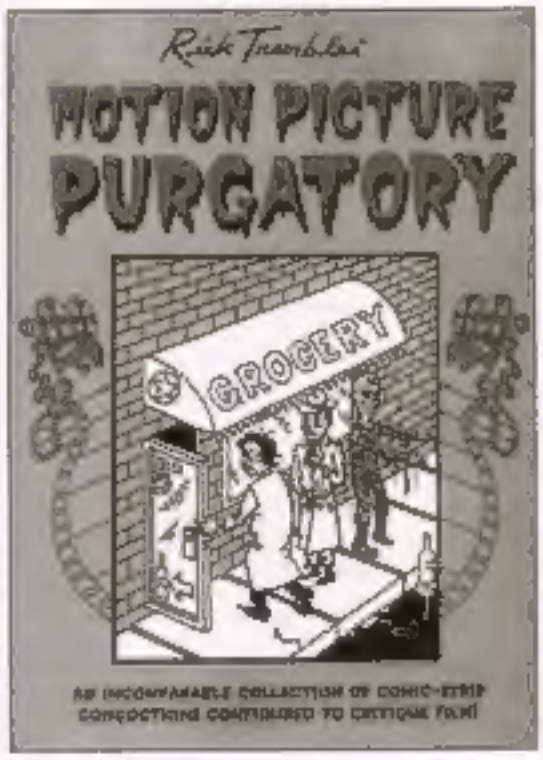

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